



Tower Bell

August, September,
2008

The Front Pew

One day when my husband was still living with his parents, he came home to find that the neighbor's rabbits had escaped their hutch and were meandering around his parent's yard. In order to keep his parent's Scottish Terriers from an early dinner, Robbie immediately started scooping up rabbits and placing them back into the hutch. The baby rabbits were slower and easier to catch. The Momma rabbit was a challenge.



It is not clear whether this rabbit was trying to protect her babies or simply being a pest, but the rabbit would bolt away as fast as she could and then freeze. It would wait until Robbie was within inches of it and then run off again. The most frustrating thing about the whole situation was that Robbie could have caught the rabbit at anytime, but not without hurting the creature. Instead, Robbie chased the rabbit for 45 minutes until she allowed herself to be safely picked up and taken home.

I tell you this story to highlight a way that we can sometimes think about what God is doing in our lives. Many times we plead with God to hurry up and get on with whatever God has in store for us. In some cases God seems to be holding out on us--even denying the answer to our prayers. This can be a highly frustrating experience. Why doesn't God rush in and fix things? Why doesn't God redeem this awful situation? Why doesn't God do that recreating, remaking and reclaiming that the Bible promises?

Could it be that God is waiting for us, terrified rabbits, to slow down and allow him to take us into his arms?

The early church felt the very same sort of anxiety. Jesus promised that the Kingdom was coming and was actually here. The Christians who were left to preach, teach and make disciples of all nations were expecting Jesus to come back as he promised. These were also the faithful Christians who were suffering greatly under persecution from their own cultures, Jewish, Greek and Roman, as well as their civil authorities. When was Jesus going to come back to redeem?

The Apostle Peter had something to say to these concerns: "There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change their ways" (2 Peter 3:8-9).

As a church we have been waiting for many things. We have been hanging on Jesus' promises and looking for the Spirit's work in this congregation. We may have even been

tempted to call God slow in finishing that good work that was started in us.

God is not slow as we might consider slowness. God is patiently working with us and in us to fulfill the promises that have been made and which we hope in. Be still and wait patiently for the Lord. Be still little rabbit, let God's arms enfold you.

—Pastor Lindsey Carnes

Who Is Our New Interim Pastor?

Rev. Agnew's degrees include a BA in Business and Sociology from Coe College, a M.Div. from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and a D.Min/Pastoral Care from Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, Missouri.



He is single, with two grown sons and several grandchildren. His mother passed away (Alzheimer's) last September and his father is in an Alzheimer's care facility outside Chicago.

He was ordained 39 years ago and has worked 12 years as Solo Pastor (2 churches) and 20 years as Senior Pastor/Head of Staff (2 churches). He left his last Head of Staff position in July 2006, at which time he began doing Interim Pastor work. Rev. Agnew has served as Interim Pastor at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, for the past 24 months.

Rev. Agnew feels his talents and strengths are in the areas of preaching, pastoral care and administration. He emphasized the critical necessity of sound management in leading any church. He talked about weekly staff meetings, the need to listen and to lead, staff responsibilities to Session committees, and the need for committees to do the work for which they are responsible. Officer training is a key component of this. He has experience leading a \$5M capital campaign.

Why select Rev. Agnew?

The Interim Pastor Search Committee was drawn to him almost immediately by his enthusiasm, energy and obvious commitment to the calling of interim pastor. He sees his work as "giving back to the Church" which has sustained him all his life. In our discussions he frequently raised issues we intended to bring up before we mentioned them. In each case, his comments were precisely on the mark. We concluded the telephone interview, looked at each other, and unanimously agreed that he sounded ideal for the needs of our church. That consensus was cemented during our personal interview with him. This consensus is shared by our church staff as well.

See next page....

What is the Process for calling an Interim?

The Presbytery of Wabash Valley, working through the Committee on Ministry (COM) was responsible for helping us with the Interim Pastor search process. Our Interim Pastor Search Committee: John Mihelich, Nancy Shephard, David Dunlap, Leandra Allen, Tracy Spear, Dave Sykes and Doug Hemphill and the COM worked to develop a position description that would articulate what First Presbyterian Church needs in an Interim Pastor. Armed with this information, the COM began the process of searching for likely candidates. This process was led by Rev. Ray Fancher, Interim Executive Presbyter. Unlike searches for installed pastors, the Interim Pastor process sees only one candidate at a time. The COM screens and identifies candidates based on how their gifts fit with our needs, as stated in our position description, and refers them to us. This does not always mean that a church offers the Interim Pastor position to the first candidate who is interviewed.

Per the Book of Order, the initial contract between First Presbyterian Church and Rev. Bob Agnew is for 12 months. This contract can be extended, and probably will be, for as long as 24 months while the process of calling our next Senior Pastor runs its course.

But what is this Interim Pastor concept anyway?

In general terms, an Interim Pastor is a regular pastor with special training to help congregations in transition maximize the learning and long-term progress during a time that can be exceedingly challenging. An Interim Pastor is

intentionally committed to this unique form of ministry,
well-trained in the skills and challenges of transitional ministry,
experienced in leading congregations like ours.

Many clergy and lay people describe an Interim Pastor's role as similar to that of John the Baptist: the Interim isn't the one we're ultimately searching for, but he is the one who helps prepare the way. His specific training and talents—and burning desire to serve and assist congregations—empower the Interim Pastor to be a true shepherd and guide. He is not assigned to solve all of a church's problems. His mission is to lead us in a way that helps **us** resolve our concerns and prepare to move forward.

Although a congregation may – and probably will – become extremely close to an Interim Pastor, a key element in the relationship and role is that a minister who has served as Interim Pastor may not be called to be the next installed pastor for the church he served as Interim Pastor.

What should we expect – and what will we have to do?

As our Interim Pastor, Rev. Bob Agnew will help us

Come to terms with our history.

Discover a new congregational identity.

Facilitate shifts in lay leadership and changes in congregational power structures.

Facilitate shifts in lay leadership and changes in congregational power structures.

Rethink and renew denominational links.

Prepare for new pastoral leadership and a new future.

As members of FPC, our responsibility as a congregation is to take full advantage of the opportunity this help presents. In this relationship, God has led us to a place from which we can transcend whatever boundaries we have grown accustomed to, and move forward as Christ's church.

The Interim Pastor will, among other things,

serve as moderator of the Session and the congregation.

serve as Head of Staff of the Church with all the authority implied, including the authority to supervise all members of the staff, in consultation with the Session or its appropriate committee.

lead the congregation through a reflection process.

develop, in consultation with the Session, the areas of Transitional Pastoral Ministry that will become the priorities for the work of the Interim Pastor, as well as the Session.

What will Rev. Bob Agnew bring to FPC?

Leadership to the Congregation as we seek to articulate who we are, where we have been, and where we feel called to go.

Leadership to the Session as we work to fulfill our responsibilities as elected stewards of the church.

Leadership to our Associate Pastors as they grow and develop their abilities in ministry.

Leadership to our church staff and a focus on becoming a functioning team.

Direct involvement with members of the church.

Pastoral care for all of us that is sincere, committed, insightful and loving.

Preaching that is inspirational and effective.

The guidance, in terms of both listening and leading, that we need in order to grow and move forward as a body of believers.

The ability to confront problem situations and take effective steps to resolve them.

Armchair Theologians



The Heidelberg Catechism Questions 12-15

Q. 12. Since, then, by the righteous judgment of God we have deserved temporal and eternal punishment, how may we escape this punishment, come again to grace, and be reconciled to God?

A. God wills that his righteousness be satisfied; therefore, payment in full must be made to his righteousness, either by ourselves or by another.

Q. 13. Can we make this payment ourselves?

A. By no means. On the contrary, we increase our debt each day.

Q. 14. Can any mere creature make the payment for us?

A. No one. First of all, God does not want to punish any other creature for man's debt. Moreover, no mere creature can bear the burden of God's eternal wrath against sin and redeem others from it.

Q. 15. Then what kind of mediator and redeemer must we seek?

A. One who is a true and righteous man and yet more powerful than all creatures, that is, one who is at the same time true God.

We all know that there is a problem. Even if we balk at calling it sin, we will all admit that we are not perfect. Something is terribly wrong in the world and that something is sin.

We can do nothing about it. It is like a large credit card bill. We do not have the cash flow in order to pay off our debt and every month we incur a greater balance due to interest. We are unable to be free from our debt because we lack the funds to repay it.

So what shall we do? Sin is a cycle and has very real systemic symptoms. If anyone was to try and address the sin issue in our lives they would first have to address the sin in their own life.

How can "you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? (Matt. 7:3)". Sin blinds us so much that it is impossible to see the work of sin in our own lives, even if we acknowledge its presence.

We must hope in a redemption that comes from outside of creation. We must hope in a redemption that is from the One who has no sin. We must hope in the One who is not blinded or crippled from sin and can enter into this earthly system and affect it for the good. Jesus Christ is that One.

—Pastor Robbie Carnes

Habitat for Humanity Matthew 25 House

Team FPC performed like a well-oiled, or should we say drenched, machine when working on the Habitat for Humanity Matthew 25 House project. The torrential rain did not dampen spirits. Projects started by the team included insulating the house and starting to shingle the roof. This year was special in that the director for Habitat and the family of the house FPC members worked on came to FPC and made a presentation. This was a great way to get the congregation closer to the project. Earlier in the summer, the Mission Committee asked for, and received support from the congregation during two fundraisers for this project. The "Sign A Stud" and "Shingle A Roof" activities along with support from the Deacon's, and individual contributions allowed us to financially support Habitat for Humanity. Workers this year included: Rev. Robbie Carnes, Donna Rehbein, Greg Lawson, Dave and Staci Norman, and Dave Eggleston. Thanks to all those involved especially to Phyllis Wezeman, Pam Proctor, and Dan Balog.

Dave Norman, Chair – Mission Committee

Update from the Finance Committee

[This letter was sent with the half yearly giving statements.]

Dear Friends,

We are truly excited about what God is doing in this time and place, and we would like to bring you up-to-date on some of the happenings at FPC.

Because of your contributions our ministry together continues locally, regionally, and around the world. Our Vacation Bible Schools at church and Redbud will ministered to nearly 100 children and youth who learned about God's power and love for them through Jesus' miracles. Our middle schoolers and high schoolers participated in making sack lunches for the Center for the Homeless and joined with Habitat for Humanity to help rebuild Benton Harbor, MI. We also commissioned the Malawi Mission Team for their July trip which focused on training and equipping AIDS educators and continued to expand the wells projects. We are grateful to be a part of God's work in the world.

Your tithes and giving also enable us to strengthen each other as disciples who follow Christ through education and programming. This fall adults and children at FPC will also growing as disciples and good stewards. The younger children will learn some of the basic stories of the Bible in Sunday school. The older children will receive Bibles and instruction on how to read and use it in their devotional life. The middle school students will go through Confirmation to learn about their faith and confirm the vows their parents and congregation made at their baptisms. Adults will have the opportunity to grow as disciples through the Financial Peace seminars and Sunday schools on the care of the environment, faith and politics, the seasons and liturgical year, and Jesus and archeology.

This summer brings many transitions, new babies, vacations and retirements. On June 15th, we marked and celebrated 17 years of ministry of Rev. David Morrow and his family, Janet, Brian and Chris. The following week the whole family traveled to see Chris' new daughter. David and Janet are now both retired an moving to Holland, MI. We thank the Lord for their ministry and friendship.

As a result of increasing needs in our congregation, Revs. Robbie and Lindsey Carnes moved from 1/2 time each to 3/4 time each. They have become actively involved in leading worship, preaching, pastoral care, and working with the youth, Outreach Committee, Deacons, and Redbud Trail Retreat. Robbie and Lindsey have also filled the acting Head of Staff role as the Interim Pastor Search Committee sought a leader to guide us through the process of transition and seeking a new Senior Pastor. We are thankful that their work is nearly completed and we are joyful that our Interim Senior Pastor Rev. Bob Agnew will join us August 24th!

As of 6/30/08, we anticipated pledges of \$200,000 and have only received \$161,817, resulting in a shortfall of \$39,000. In order to continue with all our programming, your support is needed. During the summer months and into the fall, please remember your pledge/giving as you experience thankfulness for God's provision.

If you have questions regarding your half yearly statement, please call Carla Fay at the church at 234-4159.

Once again we thank you for your generous commitment to the work of Jesus Christ through this church.

Sincerely,

Rev. Lindsey Carnes and

Jim Tuesley, Treasurer, Finance Committee

Update from the House Committee

Several church facility improvement projects were started this summer. First, after taking bids from five roofing contractors, the House Committee awarded a contract to Northern Indiana Roofing Company to perform a series of essential roofing projects. Most of their work consisted of replacing all the flat roofed sections located above the kitchen, office, and at the peak of the Christian Education Wing. Demolition of these roof areas revealed that the original roofing was never previously removed but rather had been covered by new layers of roofing over the years.



The new roofing system used is composed of TPO, the latest generation membrane material warranted for 20 years by its manufacturer, Firestone. The membrane is white and thereby will reflect heat energy during the air-conditioning season, thus saving the church electrical costs for many years to come. Rigid insulation was also added underneath the new membrane. The roof was not originally insulated so the church should enjoy additional energy savings all year round. This roofing work should address the long-time nagging leak problems in many areas of the church and these areas will now be patched.

The roofing contractor also unclogged gutters and downspouts and inspected all the clay tile roofing on the sloped portions of the building. Additionally, some of the tiles appear to have been damaged during a June hailstorm and will be repaired during this work after the claim has been filed with the church's insurance company.

Other essential work that occurred during the summer included the scrapping and painting of the two cupolas located above the Social Hall and CE Wing. The west cupola had several sections of deteriorated wood replaced. A limited area of the brick and stone exterior wall of the building was also tuck-pointed to help ensure that no water will penetrate into the building.

Lastly, in keeping with the church's tradition, a bronze plaque was cast and installed in the Sanctuary Hallway to commemorate the pastorate of the recently retired David Morrow.

Unfortunately, these projects have nearly depleted the Building Fund yet there remain many other important improvement projects to do such as replacing the carpet in the first floor corridors, repairing the uplifted sidewalks surrounding the church, and upgrading the kitchen, Social Hall, offices, and heating system.

—Doug Marsh, Chair

Martin's Supermarket Advantage Points

The Children's Center would like to say thank you to those who attached their Martin's Advantage Card to the Children's Center account. This year's new number is: 4876. Please take moment and stop by the Customer Service Desk at any Martin's Store to update or add us to your Martin's card. This year we were able to get building blocks for two of the classrooms and replenish some of the consumable materials and manipulatives.

Choir and Handbells to Begin Soon!

Rally Day is September 7! It always brings with it the excitement of starting a new program year. The Chancel Choir will be back in the chancel beginning **September 7**. For all who would like to sing with us, we will meet on Sunday mornings at **10:15** in the sanctuary.



This year we will be presenting a special Advent program with the Sunnyside Presbyterian choir. On **December 7** we will be in our sanctuary, and then on **December 14** we will present the program at Sunnyside Presbyterian.

Our bell choir will regroup in September as well. If you have not been a regular ringer in this group and would like to be, please call me at home: 273-9484.

What would worship be without music? I can't even imagine! Come make a joyful noise with us this fall!!!

Musically yours, Gretchen

Are you sitting next to a visitor?

Fall is a time of year that brings many people back to church. Help greet them by saying hello, inviting them to join you for coffee fellowship hour, and remembering their names when they visit again. You can also help introduce them to an Outreach Committee Ambassador who can answer questions about the church and give them a visitor packet. Summer visitors said they appreciated visiting a warm and inviting congregation.

CHILDREN'S CENTER UPDATE — Fall 2008

Teachers Gain Training and Grants

Over the past year the Children's Center has been participating in the High/Scope Math Research project. The High/Scope Educational Research Foundation is an independent non-profit organization, established in 1970, with headquarters in Ypsilanti, Michigan. The Foundation promotes the development of children and youth worldwide and supports educators and parents as they help children learn. The Foundation's mission is to lift lives through education.

As part of the Math Research Project the Children's Center will receive training and materials related to the High/Scope Math Curriculum. Three of our teachers will be attending a four day training session as part of the implementation process.

The Community Foundation of St. Joseph County offers High/Scope training for preschool through Ivy Tech Community College. The foundation pays for this training and provides a small stipend to help cover the cost of substitutes. The Children's Center will send three of our staff members for High/Scope certification this fall.

Staff members who have already received their High/Scope Certificate are eligible for grants that provide each classroom with funds to purchase materials and mentoring. Use this link to read more information about Early Years County opportunities in St. Joseph County. http://www.cfsjc.org/downloads/cfpublications/TEYC_Quality_2005Sep.pdf

More information about the Community Foundation is available at <http://www.cfsjc.org>.

RTR

Redbud Trail Retreat



On July 13th a Gazebo was dedicated in memory of Don Chiszar a long time church member and dear friend of Redbud. The following is offered by Pastor Leroy Fassett an Assistant Pastor of FPC 1963-68 and the first resident director of Redbud Trail Retreat, 1964-67.

As we journey through life we have unique experiences which cause us to label certain places as Holy Space. Such a place for many of us in this place called Redbud Trail Retreat. For forty-four years children have come to this sanctuary to grow and love and learn; youth have come here to re-examine their values, to have their ideas reinforced and-or challenged; adults have come here to grow in their relationships to each other, to family and friends, and to God. For forty-four years persons of all ages and stations in life have come apart from the busyness and stress of the world out there, to this place, for a refreshing retreat of meditation and dialogue, a time to pray and play, a time to enjoy nature and enjoy the fellowship of God's family. Redbud Trail Retreat has become for many a space which we have come to think of as Holy Ground, Holy Space. And so it is that when we pass through the gate to enter Redbud Trail Retreat we figuratively take off our shoes for we are on Holy Ground.

Let us pray: God of all creation; God of those who have come to this Holy Space over the years for refreshment and renewal, God of the past, the present, and the future; god of the children, the youth, and the adults; we give thanks for this Holy Ground, and for this special event which calls us together. We give you thanks for all those who have given time, and talent, and money to make the ministry of this place a reality. We give you thanks for those who have served on committees and boards to give directions and especially remember our brother Don Chiszar and his commitment to this Holy Space. We recognize, O God, that we will honor his life best by continuing that commitment which he lived out so well. Even as we pause for this special moment at this memorial to Don on this Holy Ground, we pray that you will give us all courage, the intelligence, and the will to leave this world a better place than we found it. Amen.

Leroy Fassett is currently Pastor Emeritus of the First Presbyterian Church of Highland, IN.

Barnyard Sale: Many Thanks to all of you who donated items and purchased goodies from the McClelland's Barn. All told we made about \$2600 for Redbud which is phenomenal. Thank you also to Larry and Alma McClelland for organizing and hosting the fundraiser.

Redbud Summer Daycamp: *"I just want to say WOW! This was my first experience with Day Camp and I think we had a great week! I want to personally thank Carolyn Sassano for keeping things positive and continuing the Redbud traditions. Dana Blanchard did a fantastic job with the meals, and keeping*

things in order. Erika Sporleder was a huge help and was a lot of fun in the kitchen. Norm once again proved his value and maintained many facets of the camp...especially when the power went out! Sean Chiszar did a tremendous job with the teen boys and programming and still found time to work on the gazebo! Robbie Carnes was a huge asset to Day Camp this year as we had pastoral leadership as well as his talents with music! I know I will miss someone, but thanks to everyone who had a part in something, because it worked, and I think it worked very well! Pastor Laura even said, and I quote..."this is the most comfortable I have ever felt during camp. The kids are watched over and there are more adults helping out than ever before." That really says something to me. Oh, and thanks to the Normans and their kids who were a tremendous help to finish out the week!"

-- Mike Byers

Redbud Calendar:

Redbud Back to School Family Event, August 9th, 5pm. Bring meat to grill and a side to share as we enjoy God's Country together and watch a family friendly movie on the lawn.

Redbud Vespers Service, August 23rd, 7pm. We will meet in the the Amphitheater for an outdoor worship service of singing and prayer.

Labor Day Family Camp at Redbud

August 30th- Sept 1, Redbud Trail Retreat will be open to families who wish to tent camp and enjoy the property. Each family will provide their own meals however ample kitchen space is available.

Silverhawks Game, August 29th, the last game of the Redbud Season. Sign up to serve concessions at the Coveleski Stadium to support Redbud. Contact Mike Byers.

Annual Hog Roast, October 11th,

We will enjoy the fall colors up at Redbud and wonderful BBQ. There will be a nominal fee for food and also a silent auction. All proceeds will go toward Redbud operational costs.

Redbud Halloween, October 18th,

The youth of FPC will decorate cabins and have games to play with any children who wish to come and trick-or-treat in a fun and safe environment. More information to follow.

LOST AND FOUND: Towels, swimsuits, t-shirts... You can find your items in the Church office

MALAWI MISSION TRIP SUMMARY REPORT—2008

Educating and Empowering HIV and AIDS Leaders

Building on pilot programs in 2006 and 2007 with the Nkhoma Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi, the goal of the 2008 mission was to develop an ongoing system of HIV and AIDS Education for the central region of the country – which comprises more than 4 million people including 1.8 million members of the C.C.A.P. in 134 congregations and countless prayer houses.

During four day training programs on “Creative Methods of HIV and AIDS Education” in six different sites, all staff members of the Nkhoma Synod HIV/AIDS Department were represented, two – or more -- men and women from each of the 14 Presbyteries in the Synod were identified and mentored to be educators and resource people for the churches within their regions, and volunteers representing 74 congregations participated in the courses. Up to this point, the HIV/AIDS Department has only worked in 30 congregations within their Synod. Therefore, in three weeks time, the capacity for ongoing work has been more than doubled with volunteers in place to continue the process of working with groups in churches, schools, and villages throughout the Central region of the country.

Building and Celebrating Capacity for Congregational Based Programs

Continuing the partnership between Chibanzi C.C.A.P. in the Dowa District of the Central Region of Malawi and First Presbyterian Church of South Bend, Indiana which was explored through the FPC Malawi Association, the Mission Committee, and the Session in 2004 and established in May 2005, two visits were made and numerous meetings were held to strengthen this incredible relationship. Through an agreement with the Malawi and U.S. based organization Ministry of Hope, the Nursery/Orphan Center – with the addition of its new kitchen/serving/dining/storage facilities is fully operating four classes with 160 children in daily attendance who are being educated and fed two meals a day. Teachers, as well as cooks, are being paid and trained. A school board from the congregation oversees the operation. Two blocks of a Primary School are close to completion. After meetings with the Primary School Advisor for the District from the Ministry of Education of the Country plus the Education Secretary of Nkhoma Synod, it is estimated that this first phase will open in January 2009. Since so many children in this area have not been able to attend school due to distance to other sites, it is estimated that there could be as many as 200-250 children in Standard (Grade) One and 150-200 children in Grade Two.

To determine the future course of the school, meetings were held with the Primary School Advisor for the Dowa District from the Ministry of Education of Malawi, the Education Secretary of the Nkhoma Synod, and the Member of Parliament for the area. Since Nkhoma Synod owns and oversees 815 school buildings/complexes in the central region of the country, this will become one of their new sites. Before the school can open, two teacher houses must be built, “long drop” toilets, and a well must be installed. When these requirements are completed, Nkhoma Synod will turn the school over to the Ministry of Education and they will hire and pay teachers and open the facility.

In the future, additional classroom blocks will be needed which will also mean that more teachers houses will be required.

All 11 shallow wells are operational. There is a chairperson and a committee for each site. Two volunteer maintenance technicians have been trained to oversee the pod. Meetings with the

technicians from Domasi who accessed the sites, supervised the work, and constructed the pumps were held and they gave glowing reports on the dedication of the Chibanzi people to complete this project. Chibanzi has asked us to partner with them to install 20 more wells throughout the region in the fall of 2008.

Africa Bags, a village cooperative, has started in Chibanzi with a representative of each prayer house serving on the steering committee. This self-sufficiency project will allow people of the area to earn a small income and to provide funds for some of the feeding projects in the area. In this connection, Chibanzi CCAP has made the second request to help them purchase a maize mill and to provide supplies for housing it so they can begin another source of income to sustain their community and their projects.

Meetings, Visits and More

Time that was not taken with HIV/AIDS classes and Chibanzi-related projects was filled with productive meetings with executives of organizations and officials of the Synod and General Assembly and joyful visits with many relatives of members of First Presbyterian Church of South Bend.

Pictures and More

Our “official” report with pictures and stories – mainly of the Chibanzi projects – will be given during the Adult Education Hour on World Communion Sunday, October 5 at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel.

Thank you, again, for your prayers and support.

—Phyllis Wezeman

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### Nkhoma Synod General Secretary to Visit South Bend

Rev. Davidson Chifungo, General Secretary of the Nkhoma Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (C.C.A.P.) in Malawi, Africa will be in South Bend on Monday, August 18 and Tuesday, August 19. Rev. Chifungo is the keynote speaker at the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s Malawi Mission Network meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, August 14-17, and will travel to South Bend after this event.

Eight people from FPCSB will participate in the Malawi Mission Network Gathering of the PC(USA) to be held in Tulsa, OK from **Thursday, August 14 through Sunday, August 17**. They include: Alexander Kasasi, Mlekwa Mwachande, Edina & Jeremy Namwali, Nellie Namwali, Mercy Nyirenda, Givinia Somanje, and Phyllis Wezeman. All eight will have leadership responsibilities for large and small group sessions during the conference. Phyllis Wezeman serves as the current Chairperson of the Network for our denomination.

On Monday night, **August 18, 2008**, the FPC Malawi Association will hold a special Malawi Community Event at 6:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary. Rev. Chifungo will be the guest preacher for a Chichewa (native language) service and Malawi congregations and pastors from the Michiana area will participate.

On Tuesday, Rev. Chifungo will address the General Council of our Wabash Valley Presbytery at lunchtime. That evening, **Tuesday, August 19, Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church** are cordially invited to an Open House at the home of Indi Dieckgrafe and Kevin Dreyer, 1905 Dorwood, South Bend, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. to meet and visit with Rev. Chifungo. Please plan to attend.

Rev. Chifungo will return to Malawi on Wednesday, August 20.

The planning committee for Rev. Chifungo’s visit includes: Aussie Munthali, Emmanuel Mwachande, Edina Namwali (Chair), Jeremy Namwali, Mercy Nyirenda, and Givinia Somanje.



# Youth News

## Summer Events:

### Pulse Concert, August 16<sup>th</sup>

The tickets are free and the music is great. Sign up for a ticket in the Church Office or get your own. We will find someone to drop us off so that we don't have to pay for parking. Bring some money for food and see you there! More details to follow.

## Future Events:

### See you at the Pole, September 24<sup>th</sup>

Do your classmates know about your faith? Start off the school year right and let everybody know about it. Meet at your school flag pole for prayer before school starts. You might see one of your pastors there.

### Cropwalk, September 27<sup>th</sup>

Even in South Bend many people do not have enough food to eat. Come and do something about it. Raise money and food donations and walk with us in the Cropwalk.

### Confirmation Classes start in September:

Starting in September we will be starting a confirmation class for the youth of FPCSB. If you are in eighth grade or older, wish to learn more about your faith and are considering joining our church as a member, please contact Pastor Robbie. We will be meeting directly after the Sunday morning worship service twice a month to learn about who we are as a church, as Christians and as people of God. A detailed calendar of events and expectations will be made available to confirmands.

## CHILDRENS' MINISTRIES

### INFANT NURSERY & TWO'S AND THREE'S ROOM

Child Care and classes for Infants, Two's and Three's is provided each Sunday morning from 9:15 A.M. until 12:00 Noon.

### PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASS

On Sunday, September 14, our Pre-Kindergarten class for children who have turned four by September 1 and have not started Kindergarten will resume in the Pre-K Room on the second floor of the Education Wing. It will be held during the Christian Education Hour, 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M., and include stories, songs, snack, and play. At 10:30 A.M., parents meet their children at the room to take them to worship as a family. After the Children's Message in the 10:45 A.M. service, Pre-Ks may leave for Second Hour classes.

### FAITH STEPS WORKSHOP ROTATION MODEL SUNDAY SCHOOL -- K-5

Faith Steps for fall resumes on Sunday, September 14 with the Creation story as the first rotation. Children in Kindergarten

through Grade Five will participate in Art, Cinema, Computer, Drama, Music, and Tent – which includes Cooking and Games. Watch the "Church Chatter" each week and check the Children's Ministries bulletin boards on the first and second floors for the specific class location for each grade.

A "Faith Steps" preview session for incoming Kindergarten children will be held on Sunday, August 31 from 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. Parents are welcome.

### SECOND HOUR PROGRAM -- K-2

Children's music, Children's library, Church Year, and Missions will be part of the Second Hour Program for Pre-K through K-2 children. Second Hour begins when children leave worship after the children's message.

### BIG HEARTS BUNCH -- GRADES 3-5

The first meeting of the Big Hearts Bunch, our caring kids group for third, fourth, and fifth graders, will be held Sunday, September 14 from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 P.M. in the Social Hall. It will begin with lunch and continue with guests who will help us learn more about our "Mission of the Quarter," Habitat for Humanity. Then we'll make "stepping stones" for the people who receive the Habitat houses. Plan to be part of this great session.

### FEATURING FIRST KIDS BULLETIN BOARD

Nametags for Pre-K through Fifth Grade children are located on the bulletin board near the Social Hall. Please wear and return them each week.

## ADULT EDUCATION

Sundays 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

### Chapel Class (Chapel)

**September 7 RALLY DAY** (Social Hall)

*Juggling Your Schedule: Church, Family, School, Work and More*

*Alan Eisenhower, Juggler*

**September 14 Journeying Together in Faith**

Discuss the process of journeying in faith as FPC explores God's vision for ministry.

*Rev. Bob Agnew, Interim Senior Pastor*

**September 21 & 28 A Christian Response to the Democratic Process: A Historical Perspective**

Take a look through history to discover perspectives on a Christian response to the democratic process.

*Dr. Patrick Furlong, Professor of History Emeritus, IUSB*

### Growing Christians Class (Social Hall)

**Walk as Jesus Walked: Making Disciples**

Through the media of video, Bible Teacher and Pastor Ray Vander Laan opens your eyes to the times and customs of the ancient world in which the disciples learned to walk as Jesus walked. You will be amazed as you discover the values and spirituality which dominated that world and realize how loudly their echoes reverberate today. You will see the tremendous impact the message of Jesus had on pagan culture as Jesus' disciples passionately obeyed his command to "go and make disciples." And you will be challenged to examine your own passion to be like Jesus and impact your world with his message.

**September 21 Aphrodisias—Run! The Passion of Elijah**

**September 28 Antioch Pisidia—Learning to Walk Like Jesus: Paul's Journey to Rome**

## ADULT SMALL GROUPS

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**Alpha** (To be arranged)

**Centering Prayer Group**

Tuesdays 7:45 a.m. – Board Room

**Companions in Christ** (To be arranged)

**Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University**

— Social Hall

Wednesdays September 10 – December 10

(except 11/26)

5:45 – 6:15 P.M. — Dinner

6:30 – 8:30 P.M. — Class

**Eight Great Dates** — FPC 6:00-8:45 p.m.

Fridays 9/19, 10/17, 11/21, 12/19

**Ethnic Eating – Quarterly Cuisine**

October 1 – La Esperanza, January, April, July

**Family at Heart – Interplay Group**

— Tent 8:30-10:00 a.m.

3rd Tuesdays — 9/16, 10/21, 11/18, 12/16

**Green Group**

(Occasional Meetings & Internet Resources)

**“Heart to Heart” Women’s Bible Study**

— Parlor Wednesdays September 10–December 10

(except 11/26)

5:45-6:15 p.m. — Dinner

6:30-8:30 p.m. — Bible Study

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** — Parlor 10:00–Noon

3rd Mondays – 9/15, 10/20, 11/17, 12/15

**Women’s Guild** — Homes 9:45-Noon

3rd Saturdays – 9/30, 10/18, 11/15, 12/20

## ADULT ED EXTRAS

**“Go & Grow” Outings - Stratford Trip**

Adult Enrichment Committee Co-chairs:

Pete Amos 247-0628 [AmosFamily51@aol.com](mailto:AmosFamily51@aol.com)

Linda Fox 277-6317 [billorlynn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billorlynn@sbcglobal.net)

Phyllis Wezeman 234-4159

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

## To the Members and Friends of FPC:

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, “Retirement” Sunday, Janet and I were truly overwhelmed. In all the years of our shared ministry, we believe that was the most outstanding day we have ever experienced. The outpouring of love, care and friendship was uplifting and humbling. The gifts were equally memorable. We deeply appreciate the monetary gift from everyone who contributed with such generosity. Those funds will be used for something special in our retirement. We thank Nancy & Bill Shephard for their warm thoughts. We are most grateful to members of the Session for their thoughtfulness and generous gift presented by John Mihelich. The digital camera will be put to immediate use with the grandchild on the way. As of this writing, we are still anxiously awaiting that special arrival! We were very fortunate to have Brian with us to teach us all of the wonderful buttons on the camera!

The entire day’s festivities and the overall organization was beautifully coordinated by Bonnie Shaffer. She tirelessly worked for hours on lists, menus, seating, and decorations and through it all, she, as always, remained calm and cheerful! Hats off to Bonnie!

The gifts from the Malawians were especially beautiful. The “wrap” for Janet will always remind her of these wonderful friends. However, we were particularly moved by their song, as we have always enjoyed and appreciated their beautiful music.

Barbara Fick did an outstanding job on the scrapbook. We have read the notes over several times since then. We thank her for such a lovely gift. The plaque was beautifully presented by Doug Marsh and probably means the most to us. For seventeen years, we have walked by the wall of plaques and have felt privileged to have served in this place.

David Sykes and Doug Hemphill did a terrific job on the program! The commentary on the pictures was great and David especially enjoyed the references to his intense academic studies! But, who was Yoder? ...hmmm. And, finally a great big “Thank You” to Bonnie & Ken Tyler and to Joe Buzalski who worked tirelessly behind the scenes for days prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> but especially gave many hours to make the “Retirement Sunday” such a great day.

We will keep the many wonderful people at FPC in our thoughts and prayers. God Be With You ‘Til We Meet Again!

With love,  
David and Janet Morrow

1279 Prestwick Drive  
Holland, MI 49423  
1-616-396-7506  
[dj-morrow@hotmail.com](mailto:dj-morrow@hotmail.com)

# Habitat for Humanity Matthew 25

## House

## FPC Worship Service at Redbud

– July 13



Don Chiszar

Memorial Gazebo at

Redbud

## Redbud VBS –

July 2008



TO SEE MORE Redbud PICTURES CLICK <http://www.fpcsouthbend.org/Redbud.htm>

For Habitat for Humanity pictures Click <http://www.fpcsouthbend.org/ministriesHabitat.htm>

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)

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|----------|--------------------------|
| FALL     | 9:30 Christian Education |
| SUNDAY   | 10:45 Worship Service    |
| SCHEDULE | 11:45 Fellowship Time    |

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## New Interim Pastor Coming in August

The Interim Pastor Search Committee and Session are delighted that the **Reverend Bob Agnew** will be joining us on **August 24**. Bob Agnew brings a combination of faith, knowledge, talent and enthusiasm which will invigorate us all. This is an exciting time for First Presbyterian Church, and we hope you will take a moment to welcome Rev. Agnew.

More information on front page....

## RALLY DAY

All-Church Event

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2008 – 9:30 a.m.**

in the Social Hall

***“Juggling Your Schedule: Church, Family,  
School, Work and More”***

Alan Eisenhour, of Plymouth, Indiana, has been entertaining audiences for over 25 years with his amazing juggling routines.

Continental breakfast and program for all ages.

Help is always welcome for specific  
Congregational Life events.

- Mary Carol Ringler, Congregational Life Committee Chair 283-0676
- Sandy Zeiger, Rally Day Refreshment Chair 291-1051
- Phyllis Wezeman, Director of Christian Nurture  
234-4159 [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

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