



The Bell

DECEMBER 2007

FIRST
Presbyterian
CHURCH

The Bell
A monthly newsletter

Several Ways to Shrink Your Congregation

written in 1997 by Lyle Schaller, dean of church consultants

1. Operate from a mentality of scarcity, rather than abundance.
2. Focus on members – (don't ask members to "vote" or decide on plans to reach those who aren't members)
3. Short staff tenure
4. "One hour" worship/education package
5. Absence of strategy (no long-range wishes or dreams)
6. Hire staff to "do ministry" rather than empower others.
7. Select leadership from among people who want a small church.
8. Pure democracy in decision-making.
9. The road that brought us here will take us to tomorrow.
10. Long meetings.
11. Minimize the importance of parking.
12. Limited choices in worship and spiritual development.
13. 1935 preaching style (robes, behind pulpit, etc.)
14. Expect new members to join existing groups.
15. Affirm dollars as concern/problem frequently.
16. Lower expectations of congregation.

"...when the numbers have been going down and have been for some time. Whether you're talking about worship attendance, Sunday school attendance, giving, people leaving, joining another church not triggered by change of residence—when that's happening, you can't say, "Well, if they were loyal and they took their vows of membership seriously, that wouldn't be happening." You have to say it's a free market out there. Your congregation and denomination are competing in what used to be a regulated market but is now a free market. People are willing to drive 12 or 15 miles to church each way, where they used to insist on a neighborhood church. Therefore, you're competing against more choices, and the competition is at a higher level.

Now this is awfully hard to say, because the common response is, "Competition among churches is not Christian!" But the 1950s or 1960s marked the end of a cooperative period among churches and marked the beginning of an era of obvious competitiveness.

"Well, we're doing what we always did and it always worked." And I say, **"The road that brought us to today is not the road that's going to take us to tomorrow."**

(see "Pastor's Perspective" column inside about what is happening here)

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Points of Interest

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE—4:00 PM

Christmas Decorating set for Dec. 1

Congregational Meeting and Deacon's Potluck is Dec. 9

Memorials and Gifts

(Through November 27)

Deacons Fund

Amy Horak
 Gail Willi
 Barbara Sutherland
 Dick & Julie Stafford
 Wes & Cathy Van Nurden
 Dorothy Mundt
 George & Sara Abendroth

Food Pantry

Tom & Jo Knoble

Designated Gift

Chuck & Chris Norseng

Christmas Joy Offering

Dick & Anne Welke

Flowers

Chuck & Chris Norseng
 Mark & Marci Myrman
 Dick & Julie Stafford

Per Capita

Roger & Mardi Lebeis

Fall Bazaar Recap...

The Presbyterian Women would like to thank all who contributed to the annual bazaar—those who donated items, those who came to shop and eat, and most importantly, all the workers who made it possible. A new area this year was the kitchen shop, which was hugely successful. Raffle winners were: Verene Crane won the quilt and Bonnie Gullickson was the winner of the Shirley Temple doll and videos. Profits will be used for missions and church needs.

Here is a rundown of the income thus far:

- ☞ Bakery – \$440.85
- ☞ Boutique – \$779.00
- ☞ Candy Shop – \$334.96
- ☞ Crafts – \$480.05
- ☞ Garden Shop – \$124.75
- ☞ Kitchen Shop—\$811.50
- ☞ Raffle – \$506.00
- ☞ Silent Auction – \$985.00
- ☞ Sunday Sales—\$264.00
- ☞ Lunch—\$372.00
- ☞ Supper—\$710.25

Crop Walk a success...

Dear Rev. Barry and Rev. Rich:

It is a special privilege for me to congratulate and thank both of you and Ruth Rosenow as well as each and every member of your congregations, for the success recorded by the CROP Walk in 2007 by raising the highest amount ever.

This success is particularly meaningful considering the fact that for many years, the Chippewa Falls CROP Walk was struggling to keep its head above the water and you have giving it a new life. More importantly, this means that we will be able to provide more support to those who are counting on us for help and survival.

I would like to express my hopes for more success in the years to come as I value the opportunity our Lord has given us to join our efforts of assisting to the poor and the hungry. In this regard, I welcome the decision

that for the third year, you and your congregations will be hosting the 2008 CROP Walk and Ruth will provide the needed but efficient leadership.

Please call on me if I can be of any help in your effort of motivating your congregations to continue and increase their support of the Chippewa Falls CROP Walk. I would be glad to come for a sermon, a slide presentation or a temple talk at the opportunity of a mission Sunday or any special celebration or emphasis your congregation may have.

United in Christ.

Gaston Razafy
 CWS/CROP Regional Director
 1955 W. Broadway, Suite 102
 Madison, WI 53713
 Tel. 608-222-7008 or 1-888-297-2787

Pastor's Perspective

Should we be spending \$7,000 on a church consultant?

I admit that it's an amazing sum. Knowing something about how the consultant, Rev. Tom Bandy, works, and how well he has served hundreds of declining churches, I am convinced that the value is there. If we put 100% effort into the coming "Congregational Mission Assessment," and all of us save the dates of Feb 29-Mar 2 for his on-site work with us; we will be preparing for many, many years of exciting ministry. He will coach us in moving from old habits that effect our decline, into new ways that will allow us to grow.

It's still a lot of money. I was thinking the other day about how we paid a consulting firm \$20,000 for our first building campaign in 2000; then another \$14,000 for a campaign in 2003. Their work and the congregation's great response brought an amazing reduction in our debt on the building. To invest \$7,000 in revitalizing or reviving the life and spirit of a church may bring an amazing increase in vision and energy for mission.

We spent some large sums for our building and now a sum to put toward our congregation's future.

Who is Tom Bandy?

Rev. Tom Bandy is the president of EasumBandy Associates, a church-consulting firm based in Texas. Mr. Bandy lives in Toronto and travels extensively. He and his associates have worked with denominations, and big and little churches. Dave Gordon, Joe Mandelert, and I met him at a seminar offered by Glen Avon Presbyterian Church in Duluth.

He has written several books. He strongly encourages all church members to read one in

particular – Kicking Habits. We have about 25 copies circulating now in the congregation. Several readers are gathering every couple of weeks to talk about the book. We will be ordering more to have for your to pick up and read. You can order your own by going to Amazon.com and searching for Kicking Habits.

EasumBandy's basic premise is that the world is changing fast around us and the church needs to do things differently in order to be effective in mission and ministry. Change is painful for some, exciting for others and most of us experience some of both. If we continue to decline in joy and numbers, our future will be mostly painful. If we choose to meet the people around us who are outside of the church, and find fresh ways to share Jesus with them, and invite them to fellowship with us, and engage them in mission and ministry with us - it will still be painful for some, but the joys and blessings will increase for many.

What is the session retreating about on December 1?

The session will be responsible for seeing that we put maximum effort into, and get maximum benefit out of, our work with Tom Bandy. They will be forming a management team that will serve us for the next several weeks. They will be guiding us through the use of several surveys. The surveys will gather perspectives and data from dozens of people in our church.

During their retreat, session members will be learning about the "Congregational Mission Assessment" process, praying together, sharing some of their personal experience with Jesus and more. We are grateful for Ann and Dave Gordon welcoming us into their home.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <p>Advent One 9:30 am-Worship 10:00 am-Faith Quest 10:30 am-Fellowship 12:00 pm-St. Joseph's Hospice</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 pm-Drawing Grp 6:00 pm-Sr High yG Leadership 6:15 pm-Praise Team 6:30 pm-yG Band</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 am-Support Staff 4:00 pm-The Open Door Clinic (Sanctuary open for prayer)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 am-Optimist Brkfst 4:00 pm-Confirmation 4:00 pm-Sr. High yG 5:00 pm-Combined yG 5:30 pm- yG Parent Meal & Meeting 6:30 pm—Celebration Singers</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:00 pm-Men's Lunch</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:30-Optimist Breakfast W/ Santa 9:30-Session Retreat @ Gordon's</p> <hr/> <p>8</p> <p>9:30 am-Deacons</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Advent Two 9:30 am-Worship 10:00 am-Faith Quest 10:30 am-Congregation Meeting 11:00 am-Deacon's Potluck</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:00 pm-Clinic Board 6:00 pm-Drawing Grp 6:00 pm-Sr High yG Leadership 6:15 pm-Praise Team</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 am-Support Staff 4:00 pm-The Open Door Clinic 7:00 pm-Care, Share, Prayer</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 am-Optimist Bkfst 9:00 am-Painting Grp. 4:00 pm-Confirmation 4:00 pm-Sr. High yG 5:00 pm-Combined yG 6:30 pm—Celebration Singers</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:15 am-PW/Bible Study, Meeting, Cookies, Lunch</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Advent Three 9:30 am-Worship 10:00 am-Faith Quest 10:30 am-Fellowship</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:00 am-Finance Team 6:00 pm-Drawing Group 6:00 pm-Sr. High yG Leadership 6:15 pm-Praise Team</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 am-Support Staff 4:00 pm-The Open Door Clinic (Sanctuary open for prayer) 6:50 pm-Session</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 am-Optimist Bkfst 9:00 am-Painting Grp 4:00 pm-Confirmation 4:00 pm-Sr. High yG 5:00 pm-Combined yG 6:30 pm—Celebration Singers</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00 pm-Pres. Men</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>yG Gift Wrapping @ Shopko</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Advent Four 9:30 am-Worship 10:00 am-Faith Quest 10:30 am-Fellowship yG Gift Wrapping @ Shopko</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Office Closed 4:00 PM-CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30 am-Optimist Bkfst 9:00 am-Painting Grp</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>2-4 pm-Keith & Gwen Koepsel Reception</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:30 am-Worship 10:30 am-Fellowship</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Office Closed</p>					<p>December 2007</p> <p>(Page 4)</p>

December Schedules

December 2

Ushers—

Jon Behling & Sandi Frohling

Communion Servers—

Barb Smith, Tim Anderson,
Erik Anderson, Ruth Rosenow

Fellowship Hosts—

Deb Bieging

Nursery—

Sara Abendroth, Hannah Koepke

Flower Providers—

Barb & Fred Cook in celebration of our 62nd anniversary on Dec. 22.

December 5

Snacks @ 4:00—Haglund Family

December 9

Ushers—

Bill McDougall, Bob & Barb Meredith

Communion Servers—

Larry Annett, Bob Denman, Dave Gordon,
Sue Maitland, Joe Mandelert

Fellowship Hosts—

Deacon's Potluck

Nursery—

Bev Ippel, Lisa Tzanakis

Flower Providers—

Bob & Barb Meredith in celebration of
Lakken's 10th birthday.

December 12

Snacks @ 4:00—Samse Family

December 16

Ushers—

Gary & Barb Shorrel

Communion Servers—

Ruth Rosenow, Barb Smith,
Tim Anderson, Erik Anderson

Fellowship Hosts—

Julie Stafford, Patty Stiles, Barb Meredith

Nursery—

Sara Abendroth, Katie Page

Flower Providers—

Barbara Wilcox in memory of my marriage
to Sheldon in 1949.

December 19

Snacks @ 4:00—Beighley Family

December 23

Ushers—

Andy & Patti Robarge

Communion Servers—

Joe Mandelert, Ruth Rosenow, Larry Annett,
Bob Denman, Dave Gordon, Sue Maitland

Fellowship Hosts—

TBD

Nursery—

Sonia Anderson, Chris Tzanakis

Flowers Providers—

Gail Willi for the wonderful gift of
Christmas.

December 24

Ushers—

Kathi, Jim & Mitch Mandelert

December 30

Ushers—

Barb Sutherland, Bob Denman, Marcia Wirt

Communion Servers—

Barb Smith, Tim Anderson,
Erik Anderson, Larry Annett

Fellowship Hosts—

TBD

Nursery—

Barb Sutherland, Erika Cooley

Flowers Providers—

Bob & Ginny Koepsel in gratitude for the
love of family and friends.

FIRST Presbyterian CHURCH

130 West Central Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729-2345

*Worshiping in our beautiful new
building in the heart of the downtown.
We are in the city for good!*

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Our church newsletter



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Address Changes....

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Reminder:

Letters to the Editor are welcome.
Share your viewpoint and concerns.
Send an e-mail to
park140@charter.net or drop in the
Bell box in the workroom.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE—4:00 PM

Church Staff

*Barry Boyer, pastor
Tim Anderson, clerk of session
Cherie Andringa, office manager/financial
secretary
Paul Kosower, minister of music
Ali Knoll, Youth director
Becky Hager, Karolynne Duffenbach,
children's ministry
Janinne Kauffman, children's choir dir.
Holly Gintz, treasurer
Joe Gunn, custodian
Jim Mandelert, technical elder
Sara Abendroth, Barbara Meredith,
Caregiver leaders
, worship team leader
Kathi Mandelert, Bell editor
Sara Abendroth, child care coordinator
Marlys Daniels, Presbyterian Women
Pat Linden, Presbyterian Men
Margi Kohl, church librarian
Barb Smith, music librarian
Susan Boyer; Esther Frazier, Lorraine Gilbertson,
Ginny Koepsel, Tom & Jo Knoble, Margi Kohl,
Hess Morrison, Steve Playter, Jackie Reich, Jinx
Smith, Barbara Taylor, office assistants*

Church Board

*Tim Anderson Erik Anderson
Larry Annett Bob Denman
Dave Gordon Susan Maitland
Joe Mandelert Ruth Rosenow
Barb Smith*

Barry Boyer

Board of Deacons

*Verene Crane Dick Kemp
Hannah Koepke Barb Meredith
Patty Stiles*

Brief Notes

- **OPEN HOUSE**

Congregation members and friends are invited to an open house to celebrate the recent marriage of Keith and Gwen Koepsel on Saturday, December 29, 2007 between the hours of 2:00 and 4:00 in the afternoon in Fellowship Hall of our church. Gifts are not expected, but your presence would be welcome.

Please RSVP to parents Bob or Ginny Koepsel by early that week.

E-mail: vekoepsel@aol.com or phone 715-723-8166

- **YOUTH AND PARENTS RAKED**

Last Saturday, November 10, twenty hardy pioneers gathered at Art and Barb Bernhardt's cottage to rake and mow the lawn. We started at 10:30 and completed the task at 2:00 p.m. Bonnie Gullickson and Julie Stafford served hot dogs, chips, veggies, apples, and Barb Meredith's brownies and bars were for lunch. A prayer circle was held by all around the campfire made of sticks picked up in Art's yard. We were all happy to be working together and helping one of our Presby families.

Kids raking were: John and David Lynch, Nick Konwinski, Jaime Ostrem, Robin Robin, Aimee Robin, Peter and Dennis, Richard Stafford, Alex Beigley, Lisa Tzanakis. Parents and other adults working side by side with the kids were, Sue Maitland, Doug and Bonnie Gullickson, Jim Ostrem, Connie and David Cooley, Ken Beighley and Mike Tzanakis. A great time was had by all.

- **THANK YOU FROM THE BERNHARDTS**

"Wow! Our yard has never looked so good! Thank you to the Youth Group and everyone who helped rake and clean up the yard at our cottage. You did a great job and we are grateful. Thank you to Julie Stafford and Bonnie Gullickson for organizing and sponsoring the day. We are thankful to be a part of such a caring church family and thank everyone for their prayers and support. Fondly, *Art, Barb, Whitney and Arthur.*

- **FAITH QUEST NEWS**

Once again this year our church will be participating in the Spirit of Christmas program, Crib for Kids. We ask the congregation to bring in baby items such as onsies, blankets, bottles, diapers, sleepers, etc., and place them in the crib in the Narthex. Spirit of Christmas has come to count on our donations to help the littlest ones in our community. Giving toward Crib for Kids begins November 11 and will go through December 2.

Faith Quest is also participating in the Heifer International program. The money given by our children in their offering envelopes from now until Christmas will go toward the Heifer International program. This was quite a success last year! Let us try and make it an even bigger success this year!!

- **MONEY AVAILABLE TO GROUP WISHING TO SERVE AT AGNES' TABLE**

We have \$400 left in this year's budget for use by a church group to serve a meal at Agnes' Table. If the money is not claimed by December 15, the money will go to CARElink or the Chippewa Area Food Pantry. We would like to clear our account by the end of the year.

Dates for serving at Agnes' Table are taken into early next year. By claiming this money, you would not be trying to serve yet in December. You would be committing to assemble a group to serve next year. But please claim the money now and arrange for the date. If this is confusing, call the office. But if no one calls by the 15th it will be used for another purpose.

- **Word of Caution on the Film, "The Golden Compass."**

There are some in the Christian community who are raising questions about the film, especially for children, "The Golden Compass," just coming into theaters. The author of a trilogy of books, of which the "Compass" is the first to film, is an avowed atheist. The film is not explicitly anti-Christian, but the fear of some is that it will lead folks into reading the trilogy, which apparently is. I have not researched this but encourage you to do so. Begin by looking at <http://snopes.com/politics/religion/compass.asp> and follow some links to get a better picture.
– *Pastor Boyer*

Notes from around the church.....

Library News...

Dear Readers - Hopefully you have your yard work and winter preparations done and can take some leisurely time to read. At the moment, I'm reading a series of books that my granddaughter has read and I'm enjoying them. I realize we get very different things from the books and that's fun, too.

As I mentioned before, Anne Welke brought in a box of excellent books. While they aren't necessarily "church" books, they are very nice. They range from books for you to read to your little ones, to books for small children to read on their own to books for adolescents. I don't have room to mention them all but we thank Anne and I'll recommend a few. All are either 24 or 26 on the shelves. There is a 6-book series about Samantha, an American Girl. There is a 7 book set of Oxford Children's Encyclopedia. Children Just Like Me by Barnabas and Anabel Kindersley, Best Friends by Steven Kellogg, Story of Hanakkah by Norman Simon, Little Critter's Read it Yourself Storybook by Mercer Mayer and Hiawatha by Longfellow all appeal to me. 365 Things to Make & Do should provide ideas for entertainment. There is also a 5-book Dear America Series. Thanks to Anne for these fine books. Please take a look at them. Your youngsters will enjoy them.

Jan Hilton-Koepke donated Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini and it's in the non-fic section. I read this book a few years ago on the high recommendation of Bob Koepsel. It is a powerful book and not always easy to read. It's definitely a story I didn't forget right away. Thanks, Jan.

Please stop in and look around the library. There are some very good books there. I personally prefer fiction and there are many I still hope to find time to read.

Happy reading!

Margi Kohl, your librarian

Christmas Decorating...

Dear friends,

If you can fit it in your busy schedule, we're looking for volunteers for this Saturday, Dec. 1st, to decorate the church for Christmas. We plan to pick up 3 big trees, and put them up in the Sanctuary, Narthex and Fellowship hall. If we get a good crew we can be done in two hours. Paul could use a couple of guys to help pick up the trees, and the rest is mostly lights and greens. Please let us know by responding to our e-mail if you can make it, and feel free to ask anyone we didn't think of. Big kids are welcome! The coffee pot will be on!

Wynne and Susan

From the Stewardship Committee...

We have concluded the stewardship campaign. However, we would like to remind you that stewardship is ongoing. You may always adjust your commitment due to circumstances that come up. Hopefully the change will be a positive one. Please keep your church in your prayers.

Remember, too, that our church faces increasing expenses that need to be paid. So if you are one who does not support your church financially, please prayerfully reconsider. Compared to last year's dollar amount, we came up \$12,680 short. This will impact the budget. We still hope that several people who pledged last year, but so far have not returned a card, will decide to continue their support in '08.

The total figure committed based on the Operating/Mission Fund cards returned is \$166,846. The total figure from the cards returned for the 2008 Mortgage Retirement Fund is \$223,128. This amount includes \$30,000 from the Endowment Trust Fund.