



# The Bell

December 2008

FIRST  
Presbyterian  
CHURCH

The Bell  
A monthly newsletter

## Worship in December

### **Sunday December 7 9:30 AM** *Second Sunday of Advent*

Worship Leader ~ Erik Anderson  
Faith Sharing ~ "Mighty God"  
Text ~ John 20:26-28, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Communion, Candle Lighting

### **Sunday December 9 9:30 AM** *Third Sunday in Advent*

Worship Leader ~ Holly Gintz  
Faith Sharing ~ A Service of Lessons and Carols  
Text ~ Isaiah 9:6  
Communion, Candle Lighting

### **Sunday December 21 9:30 AM** *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

Worship Leader ~ Jeannette Miller  
Faith Sharing ~ "Prince of Peace"  
Text ~ John 14:27, Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96  
Communion, Candle Lighting

### **Wednesday December 24 4:00 PM** *Christmas Eve Service*

Worship Leader ~ Erik Anderson  
Faith Sharing ~ "Christmas Eve Meditation"  
Text ~ Titus 3:3-7, Luke 2:1-20, Isaiah 52:7-10, 62:6-12  
Communion, Lighting the Wreath

### **Sunday December 28 9:30 AM**

Worship Leader ~ Barry Boyer  
Faith Sharing ~ "Learning From Liberation"  
Text ~ Exodus 14:19-31, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-25  
Communion

#### **Inside this issue:**

Memorials & Gifts	2
PW Bazaar Report	
Address Changes	
Pastors Perspective	1, 3
Calendar	4
Church Schedules	5
Brief Notes	6
Notes from around the Church	7
Library News	
Advent, Christmas Joy	8
Pointsettia Order Fors	9
Birthdays & Anniversaries	Back Page

#### **Points of Interest**

Deacon sponsored Pot Luck meal on Dec. 14.

Time to order poinsettias to grace the chancel during the holiday season

## **Fall Bazaar Report...**

Yes, it was another successful Holiday Bazaar! Many thanks to all who participated in sharing the work and donating items for sale. Winner of the quilt was Ella Behling and the winner of the American Girl doll was Ann Gordon. Profits are a little over \$5000.00. Presbyterian Women have formed a special committee for spending. Their job is to accept requests for donations, evaluate and prioritize them and then present them to the membership for approval.

Following is a breakdown for each area before expenses are deducted:

Raffle—\$755.00	Crafts—\$544.40
Lunch—\$437.00	Supper—\$953.00
Bake Sale—\$436.25	Candy Shop—\$273.25
Kitchen Shop—\$580.25	Boutique—\$369.75
Knife Sharpening—\$66.50	Books—\$151.50
Silent Auction—\$845.00	Donations—\$130.00
Sunday Sales—\$96.50	

Presbyterian Women support many missions throughout the year: Deacon's Fund, Agnes Table, Spirit of Christmas, Menaul School in Albuquerque, schooling for a student in India, and for the past two years, Youth Group Mission Trip; and the mission trip to New Orleans in 2007.

~ Kathi Mandelert, Treasurer

### **Memorials and Gifts**

(Through Nov. 18)

#### **Food Pantry**

JoAnn Guthrie  
Karen Elstran  
Corine & Earl Boos  
Shaun & Angela Christensen

#### **Deacons Fund**

Linda Schreiber  
Cheryl Hubmann  
Jim & Kathi Mandelert  
Art Schunk & Joyce Pugh  
Kathy & Randy Facklam  
Jamie Halfen  
Corine & Earl Boos

#### **Flowers**

Bonnie & Doug Gullickson  
Barry & Susan Boyer  
Marlys Daniels

#### **Per Capita**

Tim & Sonia Anderson

### **Address Changes...**

Kathy Furtado  
3050 Auld Tatty Dr.  
Spring Hill, TN 37174-7455

Ardell Bauman  
952 24 7/8 St.  
Chetek, WI 54728-7911

Darby Strong  
2487 25th Ave.  
Rice Lake, WI 54868-9725

Nathan & Nicki Fleming  
4627 Talmadge Rd.  
Eau Claire, WI 54701-9393

## Pastor's Perspective

During our recent stewardship campaign, church members were provided with a comprehensive and enthusiastic guide to giving. It was called "How to Be a Good Giver and Love It." It was written by Pastor Don Ginkel, a Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod pastor, and the founder of a publishing house called Church Press. We chose the pamphlet because of its style, humor mixed with encouragement, scripture truths and powerful stewardship information.

I received two inquiries, from members, about a paragraph that read, in part:

"It is estimated that there are over 5 billion people in this world who are not Christians, without salvation and are headed to hell. I must do all in my power to bring the saving Gospel of Christ to them..."

The first sentence is not consistent with our understanding of the scriptures and I would like to assert our Presbyterian contribution to the theology of salvation. It is rather succinctly put in the recent document, Hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. We have used this for study in recent years.

"Jesus Christ is the only Savior and Lord, and all people everywhere are called to place their faith, hope and love in him. No one is saved by virtue of inherent goodness or admirable living...No one is saved apart from God's gracious redemption in Jesus Christ. Yet we do not presume to limit the sovereign freedom of 'God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth' (1 Timothy 2:4). Thus, we neither restrict the grace of God to those who profess explicit faith in Christ nor assume that all people are saved regardless of faith."

Perhaps the first principle in Presbyterian thinking is that **God is sovereign**. God can do as God does. Yes, we do believe that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, for us and for all God's creation. And we are compelled by gratitude and wonder to share that good news with others: to offer "the saving Gospel of Christ." However, we would be foolish and presumptuous to say that Almighty God could not draw people to him by other means. We would then be limiting God's freedom. The sovereignty of God overarches all our discoveries and beliefs and behaviors.

We have embedded that principle in our historic confessions and, for our own congregation, in our values, beliefs, vision, and mission statement (the full statement is elsewhere in the BELL). The statement begins where it could only begin – **"Because we love the Lord our God, we will get our value, power and hope from God..."** We believe that **"God loves us no matter what; God forgives the repentant sinner through Jesus Christ; God changes our life through prayer; God has a purpose for each of us; God gives us hope and God is always with us.** God is sovereign and we would turn to no other god for abundant living. We come to know our God through the scriptures, prayer and the witness of the church. God is always at work in the church: healing, reconciling, redeeming, forgiving, drawing us closer, sending us out to love and tell the good news about Jesus Christ.

~ *Barry Boyer*

# 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!*

Office: 715.723.5717

Fax: 715.720.9460

Office manager:

fpc1admin@sbcglobal.net

Pastor: fpc1pastor@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.fpcchippewafalls.org

## The Bell

Our church newsletter



Non-profit organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 241  
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

<b>December Birthdays &amp; Anniversaries</b>		
	16	Arthur Bernhardt Jr.
	19	Bob Denman
3		Christopher Facklam Michael Linden
5		Tom Knoble
7		Dick Frazier
9		Kevin Biegung Carol & Jack Ament
10		Roger Lebeis
11		Barb Shorrel Steve Samse
12		Lakken Meredith
13		Barb Tzanakis
15		Karey Sinette
	21	Barb MacNaughton
	22	Julie & Louis Rogers Barb & Fred Cook
	25	Jonathan Ippel
	26	Susan & Barry Boyer
	27	Kathy Borofka Julie & Dick Stafford
	29	Bill Stafford
	30	Katie Biegung Nick Werner
	31	Sam Linden

### Church Staff

Barry Boyer, pastor  
Tim Anderson, clerk of session  
Cherie Andringa, office manager/financial secretary  
Ali Knoll, Youth director  
Becky Hager, Karolynne Duffenbach, children's ministry  
Holly Gintz, treasurer  
Jeff Teubert, custodian  
Jim Mandelert, technical elder  
Sara Abendroth, Barbara Meredith, Caregiver leaders  
Jeannette Miller, worship team leader  
Kathi Mandelert, Bell editor  
Sara Abendroth, child care coordinator  
Marlys Daniels, Presbyterian Women  
Pat Linden, Presbyterian Men  
Margi Kohl, church librarian  
Susan Boyer, Esther Frazier, Lorraine Gilbertson, Ginny Koepsel, Margi Kohl, Hess Morrison, Steve Playter, Jackie Reich, Jinx Smith, Barbara Taylor, office assistants

### Church Board

Tim Anderson	Erik Anderson
Sonia Anderson	Bob Denman
Dave Gordon	Jan Hilton-Koepke
Reid Kennedy	Susan Maitland
Joe Mandelert	Ruth Rosenow
Barb Shorrel	Barb Smith

Barry Boyer

### Board of Deacons

Verene Crane	Dick Kemp
Hannah Koepke	Margi Kohl
Barb Meredith	Patti Robarge
Patty Stiles	

# December Schedules

## **December 3-Wednesday**

Snacks at 4:00-Cooley Family  
5:30 Family Meal will be prepared by the team of Erik Anderson, Jan Hilton-Koepke and Kathi Mandelert. Menu will be burgers on the grill.

## **December 7– Sunday**

**Ushers—**

Gary & Barb Shorrel

**Communion Servers—**

Tim Anderson, Reid Kennedy, Bob Denman, Dave Gordon

**Fellowship Hosts—**

Susan Boyer, Jan Hilton-Koepke, Kathi Mandelert

**Nursery—**

Ann Gordon, Lauren Koepke

**Flower Providers—**

Esther Frazier in celebration of Dick's 89th birthday and in memory of Pearl Harbor Day and all veterans.

## **December 10-Wednesday**

Snacks at 4:00-McDougall Family  
5:30 Family Meal will be provided by the Youth Group.

## **December 14-Sunday**

**Ushers—**

Andy & Patti Robarge

**Communion Servers—**

Jan Hilton-Koepke, Sue Maitland, Joe Mandelert, Ruth Rosenow, Barb Shorrel

**Fellowship Hosts—**

Deacon-sponsored Pot Luck

**Nursery—**

Bev Ippel, Hannah Koepke

**Flower Providers—**

Anne Welke in loving memory of Dick.

## **December 17-Wednesday**

Snacks at 4:00-Haglund Family  
5:30 Family Meal will be provided by the team of Patti & Andy Robarge and Melyssa Heintz serving a baked potato bar.

## **December 21-Sunday**

**Ushers—**

Bob Denman, Barb Sutherland, Bob & Lindsay Wundrow.

**Communion Servers—**

Barb Smith, Erik Anderson, Sonia Anderson, Tim Anderson, Reid Kennedy

**Fellowship Hosts—**

Faith Quest staff and students

**Nursery—**

Sonia Anderson & Erika Cooley

**Flower Providers—**

Hess Morrison in loving memory of "Morry".

## **December 24-Wednesday**

*Christmas Eve Service-4:00 pm*

**Ushers—**

Jim & Kathi Mandelert

**Communion Servers—**

Bob Denman, Dave Gordon, Sue Maitland, Jan Hilton-Koepke, Joe Mandelert

## **December 28-Sunday**

**Ushers—**

Marcia Wirt, Corine Boos, Roger & Mardi Lebeis

**Communion Servers—**

Ruth Rosenow, Barb Shorrel, Barb Smith, Erik Anderson, Sonia Anderson

**Fellowship Hosts—**

Sonia Anderson & Ida Simonson

**Nursery—**

Chris Norseng & Lauren Koepke

**Flower Providers—**

Barb, Whitney & Arthur Bernhardt in memory and celebration of Art's life and gratitude for the support of our church family.

## **Brief Notes**

### **HAVE YOU HEARD OF ALTERNATIVE GIVING AT CHRISTMAS?**

Alternative giving at Christmas is a concept growing exponentially in our area. At its simplest, it means purchasing a gift or service for someone in greater need on behalf of a loved one. Heifer International offers great opportunities. For example, you could choose to give a soccer ball this Christmas to youth in a refugee camp in Darfur instead of giving it to your grandchild, but give it as if it were a gift from your grandchild. Take a copy of the Heifer International catalog from the Welcome Desk in the narthex. Have a look. I will be buying several blankets and hygiene kits a part of my gift giving to family members this Christmas. - Barry Boyer

### **COME TOGETHER TO PRAY**

For now we are gathering for prayer on Tues and Fri mornings at 7:30 a.m. We meet at the back of the sanctuary in the choir area. Just half an hour, come and go as you can. We are praying for our church, our choir, our staff, our leaders, and for those whom we may introduce to Jesus' love. (Feel free to suggest other times to gather for prayer.)

### **EARLY SIGN OF CHRISTMAS! BELL RINGERS NEEDED**

Bell ringers are needed for the Salvation Army. Please call 726-9506 ext 3 or go to [www.ringbells.org](http://www.ringbells.org) to sign up for opportunities between Nov 10 and Dec 24. This is a great thing to do with children! Borrow a child if there are none home with you.

### **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS MEET BI-WEEKLY**

If you have experienced the loss of a significant person, a grief support group can help you deal with the sorrow, anger and a host of other feelings in the weeks, and even years, that follow. Group participants can discuss, or just listen. You will learn about adjusting to a world in which the loved one no longer lives. The groups are led by well-trained persons. There is no cost to participants. Groups meet bi-weekly at St Joseph's Hospital. For additional information call 726-3581 or 726-3540

### **PERSONNEL TEAM WORKING TO ADDRESS STAFF ISSUES**

The session's personnel team, chaired by Ruth Rosenow, is working to address needs for youth and music leadership. Minister of music Paul Kosower has resigned and youth leader Ali Knoll's position will be concluded at year's end.

The short-term plan for music includes inviting organists and pianists to provide our service music through January with an eye toward hiring for an interim position through May.

Ali Knoll will be our youth leader through December. Then we are planning for volunteers to help through May. Parents and youth will be meeting after worship on December 7 to brainstorm together.

### **CHI HI BOY'S SOCCER TEAM FILLS FOOD PANTRY**

On Halloween, nearly 40 members of the Chi-HI Boy's Soccer team went into the neighborhoods and collected over 700 food items for our church's Food Pantry. Chi-Hi athletic teams participate in Project Redbird community service projects to give back to the community and show their appreciation for support given the team events. Kathy Facklam is a parent leader in this annual activity. They work out of our church during the evening and eat together in Fellowship Hall.

## Notes from around the church.....

### Library News...

Dear Readers - The bazaar was a big success. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. I even did some Christmas shopping.

I have lots of books to tell you about this month. I'm sure you've all heard of *The Shack* by Wm. Paul Young and I know many of you have read it. I have read it myself and liked it. I didn't find it as fascinating as some have but it certainly has given me a lot to think about. It could happen or couldn't it? Evelyn Jenson generously donated two copies to our library and they are in great demand. It's a very "discussable" book and is on the (FIC) shelf. Thank you, Evelyn.

Esther Frazier donated *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck. I think I read it and know I saw the movie MANY years ago but can't say I remember it. (FIC) She also gave us *First Mothers* by Bonnie Angelo. As the name implies, it is about mothers of quite a few presidents. (NON FIC) Thanks, Esther.

We thank the Shorrel family for their donation of books. Two are fiction. (FIC) They are *A Bride for Donnigan* by Janette Oke and *Refiner's Fire* by Sylvia Bambola. This one is the story of "two brothers separated as youths, two destinies in collision." *A Cup of Christmas Tea* is a wonderful, short, inspirational Christmas book for grown ups. I read it and loved it. (25)

*Getting Sent, a Relational Approach to Support Raising* by Pete Sommer is shelved at (14). Out of the Salt Shaker and *Into the World* by Rebecca Manley Pippert tells us about "evangelism as a way of life." (14)

There are still eight more books in their donation and I'll tell you about them later.

Until next month, happy reading - your librarian -  
*Margi Kohl*

### Faith Quest News...

Once again the Christmas Season is almost here! This year Faith Quest will be donating the children's offering towards Heifer International. A wonderful program that helps families become more self sufficient by giving a family animals. If you would also like to add to Faith Quest's donation, let us know and we can add your donation to the children's. Also, Faith Quest is gathering items for the Spirit Of Christmas with our Crib For Kids. Please donate baby items for families in the community that are unable to provide a gift for the littlest. Spirit Of Christmas is looking for diapers, wipes, bottles, clothing, blankets, quilts, baby toys, sheets, burp cloths, etc. Please place your donation in the crib in the narthex. Thank you ahead of time for your generosity!! Any questions regarding donating, please contact Becky Hager or Karolynn Duffenbach.

### PRESBY MEN'S LUNCH

This winter – get out of the cold & enjoy Christian fellowship & good food.

Meetings are the first Thursday of the month in Fellowship Hall. (12:00 - 1:00 PM)

Due to a conflict with New Years Day – January's meeting will be the 2nd Thursday (January 8th).

Mark your calendars.

Join us on December 4th and through the winter. –

*George Abendroth*

## ***A time of watching.....***

Advent is a time of expectant watching, watching for the One who like a potter molds us and shapes us in accordance with God's will. The people are told to be ready, for they know not when the hour will come. They are to be about their tasks, performing functions appropriate to the gifts they have received. It is a time of anticipation and preparation, of being alert to God's presence among us. **Watch.**

Advent is a season of watchfulness. Advent candles help us keep watch. Each week the light increases as a new candle is lit to join the ones that have already been illuminated.

Choose five candles, one for each week of Advent and one to be the Christ candle. Arrange the candles in a circle with the Christ candle in the middle, or arrange the candles in a line. The shape of the arrangement is less important than the increasing light the lit candles bring. Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, light the first candle and read the text from John 1 provided here. Light a new candle each Sunday and read more passages from John throughout the days of Advent. Light the Christ candle with the other candles on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Celebrate Epiphany on January 6 with a final lighting of all five candles.

Replace candles as they burn low, or choose pillar candles that will last for the season. Light the candles at the same time each day (for instance, at a meal) or light them when you sit near them and can enjoy the light.

Include family members by taking turns lighting candles and reading.

## **Christmas Joy Offering.....**

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

You are encouraged to support the Christmas Joy Offering through gifts to your congregation's offering. If for some reason that is not convenient, feel free to support the offering directly.



## Advent at Our Church

Our church year has just concluded with Christ the King Sunday. Advent is the beginning of the church calendar. As we move into advent there are several highlights to make this a memorable part of our church life. There are some different things incorporated with our traditions we all enjoy so much. When you step into the church during advent you will be greeted by the instrumental choir playing Christmas carols in the narthex. Pause and enjoy the music you are greeted by.

Each week as we light the candles on the Advent wreath we will be using a multi-generational approach to include all age groups in this event. The advent candles lit each week are part of the prayerful movement towards the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

The third Sunday of Advent, December 14, our worship service will be Lessons and Carols. This will give us an insightful approach as we hear and reflect on various Bible passages and the selected verses of numerous carols. Perhaps listening to the words more carefully will deepen our understanding of the birth.

The fourth Sunday, December 21, is the time we bring our Joy offering. This is one of four special offerings we have during the year. You will receive a mailing on this explaining how your gifts are used. We will present this offering to a live Nativity during the service. We are encouraging you to wrap your offering as a gift or place your offering in a card and then we will all process to the Nativity and give our gifts to the babe. (Joy offering is accepted through 12-28)

Christmas Eve we will again worship together at 4:00 pm Please take careful note of that time. It is scheduled to meet the needs of families, travelers as well as fit with evening meals. This service is a highlight of Advent and a meaningful climax to our celebrations.

Join your friends in worship and bring others with you! This is a great time to share our love of Christ with others in our community of Chippewa Falls and the world we live in..