



The Bell

December 2009

FIRST
Presbyterian
CHURCH

The Bell
A monthly newsletter

Worship in December

Sunday December 6 9:30 AM Advent 2

Worship Leader ~ Erik Anderson
Faith Sharing ~ "From the Roman Empire to God's Empire"
Text ~ Luke 2:1-20, Isaiah 61:1-4
Communion ~ Barb Sandford, Musician

Sunday December 13 9:30 AM Advent 3

Worship Leader ~ Jeannette Miller
Faith Sharing ~ "A Service of Lessons & Carols"
Communion ~ Gary Polden, musician

Sunday December 20 9:30 AM Advent 4

Worship Leader ~ Holly Gintz
Faith Sharing ~ "From an Early Awakening to a Long Distance"
Text Luke 2:1-20, Exodus 40:34-38
Communion ~ Barb Sandford, Musician

Christmas Eve, December 24 4:00 PM

Worship Leader ~ Holly Gintz
Faith Sharing ~ "The Wondrous Story"
Text ~ Luke 2:1-20
Communion, Gary Polden, musician

Sunday December 27 9:30 AM

Worship Leader ~ Barry Boyer
Faith Sharing ~ "A Universe of Promise Made Flesh"
Text ~ Luke 2:1-20
Communion, Gary Polden, musician

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Points of Interest

Deacon's Potluck on Dec. 13.

Tis the Season Sunday activities follows potluck on the 13th

Keep saving those Gordy's receipts!

No Wednesday Nite supper on the 23rd.

Latest from the Stewardship Team...

The letters have gone out confirming what you wrote on your Operating and Mission Fund Promise Card. If you returned a card, but did not receive a letter, call the church office immediately to let Cherie know. If there is an error, do the same.

As of Tuesday, November 24, seven households who pledged last year have still not returned their cards. If you are one of those households, we ask that you return your card with your intentions for this year. We understand that you might have financial concerns, but it would help the Finance Team in their budget planning to know what we can expect from you. The total outstanding from these 7 cards is \$9400.

We sent letters to 127 households. Currently 64 cards have been returned. The total promised for the 2010 budget is \$211,603. Last year's total was \$218,172. It is still not too late to return your card. Please consider doing so.

Comparing the amounts from 2009:

- 1 no longer a member = -\$1500
- 8 households decreased their giving = -\$7389
- 18 " increased their giving = +\$8560
- 4 new, who did not promise last year = +\$3160
- 34 " stayed the same

Thanks to all of you who returned your cards. Thanks for your generosity both in time and money. God bless you as we begin this most blessed season of Advent.

Memorials and Gifts

(Through Nov. 17)

Food Pantry

Steve Playter & Jinx Smith
Linda Schreiber
Gail Willi

Flowers

Vance & Margi Kohl
Marlys Daniels
Bill & Deborah McDougall

Mortgage Retirement Fund

Dick & June Kemp

Deacons Fund

Art Schunk & Joyce Pugh
Jim & Kathi Mandelert
Roger & Mardi Lebeis
Bob & Ginny Koepsel
Linda Schreiber
Al & Margi Namejunas

Memorials

Steve Playter & Jinx Smith

Endowment Gifts

Doug & Bonnie Gullickson
Dave & Patricia Gutknecht
Bob & Verene Crane
Susan Maitland
Ray & Pat Andress

Per Capita

Norman & Mary Ellen Keller
Gwen Bauman
Joane Knobbe
Mark & Marcie Myrman
Tim Holmes

Pastor's Perspective

Not long ago, the church board (session) agreed on a core message for our church. One day the words “**Faith, Purpose, and Community**” arose in the heart and mind of Jan Hilton-Koepke. She was playing with the first letters in the three words of our congregation’s name – First Presbyterian Church. We tried it out in the communications committee (Jan is the chair) and with a couple of other groups and people. The response was great. It went to session and we have been celebrating ever since.

A core message can only surface after a lot of hard work. That hard work was what you all did over several months to create our Values, Beliefs, Vision and Mission statement. That’s the one page piece that includes the Greatest Commandment; some basic beliefs that strengthen us in times of trouble; our vision to meet Jesus; and our mission to help God to change His world to what He intended.

We needed that foundation in place before we could hope for a meaningful and simply stated message that we could share with others. We need something short, sweet, and memorable to begin to tell other people who we are and what we stand for. And the message happened to be given by God to Jan. Yeah!

For the sake of better understanding what these words mean for us, let me suggest the essence of our core message:

We are a people:

- living in Faith as evidenced by how we live out our values and beliefs. We are trusting and hopeful followers of Christ. We are a people of Faith.
- living with Purpose as we invite others to join us in meeting Jesus and reach out to others with His name and love. We are a people with a Purpose.

living for Community we seek to encourage each other, and to build more loving and just structures in our city and beyond. We are a people for Community.

One great thing about a core message is that there is so little to remember, only three words: “**Faith, Purpose, Community.**” Another great thing is that we can talk about the message, the three words; and use our own words in telling others what they mean.

So, let’s begin the conversation. Let’s talk about our message, and talk up our message, when we are together. Don’t be surprised if I ask you about the message and what it means for you. How are you sharing it with others to tell them about our church?

It’s interesting how we keep moving along on the journey of transformation. Things like the core message happen that speak of our new life. Noelle’s ideas and work are invigorating, and she brings hope and promise to our community. The bazaar was a witness to hard work and good fun. Ruth Rosenow’s efforts in marketing jewelry from Bangkok bring another international mission component to our ministry. Our leadership model is changing and adapting to new needs. It is a very fluid time at First. The Holy Spirit is leading us to where God would have us. Let’s follow along for His sake and ours.

~ *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!*

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The Bell

Our church newsletter



**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Non-profit organization
U.S. POSTAGE
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Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Church Staff

Barry Boyer, pastor
Bob Denman, clerk of session
Cherie Andringa, office manager/financial secretary
Noelle Chaltry, children & youth ministry
Gary Polden, Barb Sandford, Barb Smith, music ministry
Holly Gintz, treasurer
Bob Lindsley, 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
, church librarian
Corine Boos, Susan Boyer, Esther Frazier, Margi Kohl, Hess Morrison, Steve Playter, Jackie Reich, Art Schunk, Jinx Smith, office assistants

Church Board

Jon Behling *Bob Denman*
Dave Gordon *Eric Haglund*
Jan Hilton-Koepke *Reid Kennedy*
Susan Maitland *Bruce Miller*
Ruth Rosenow *Ron Schmidt*
Barb Shorrel
Barry Boyer

Board of Deacons

Corine Boos *Verene Crane*
Dick Kemp *Margi Kohl*
Barb Meredith *Patty Stiles*
Anne Welke

December Schedules

December 2-Wednesday

Snacks at 4:00-Stafford Family
Family Supper—Presbyterian Men

December 6– Sunday

Ushers—

Team 2—Sonia & Tim Anderson, Jim & Deb Bieging, Larry Annett, Marlys Daniels, Lindsey & Bob Wundrow, Sara & Matt Boughton, Corine Boos

Communion Servers—

Sue Maitland, Bruce Miller, Ruth Rosenow, Ron Schmidt, Barb Shorrel

Fellowship Hosts—

Jackie Reich, Esther Frazier

Nursery—

Chris Norseng & Angela Christensen

Flower Providers—

Open

December 9-Wednesday

Snacks at 4:00-Cooley Family
Family Supper—Burgers on the grill by Erik Anderson, Jan Hilton-Koepke and Kathi Mandelert

December 13-Sunday

Ushers—

Team 3—Bob Denman, Gail Buchanan, Dick & June Kemp, Lindsay & Isaac Freeman, Pat Linden, Kathy Facklam, Ray & Pat Andress

Communion Servers—

Sonia Anderson, Tim Anderson, Jon Behling, Bob Denman, Dave Gordon

Fellowship Hosts—

Deacon's Pot Luck

Nursery—

Ruth Rosenow, Ann Gordon

Flower Providers—

Chuck & Chris Norseng in memory of Edith Stalle (Chris' mother) and in gratefulness for all our friends in this church

December 16-Wednesday

Snacks at 4:00-McDougall Family
Family Supper provided by Noelle Chaltry and the youth group

December 20-Sunday

Ushers—

Team 4—Dave & Ann Gordon, George & Peggy Fleming, Joyce Pugh & Art Schunk, Pat Popple, Erik & Traci Anderson, Deb & Erik Dickson

Communion Servers—

Eric Haglund, Jan Hilton-Koepke, Reid Kennedy, Sue Maitland, Bruce Miller

Fellowship Hosts—

Open

Nursery—

Barb Sutherland & Becky Hager

Flower Providers—

Barb, Whitney & Arthur Bernhardt in loving memory of Art's life

December 24-Christmas Eve

Ushers—

Team 5—Sue Maitland, Chuck & Chris Norseng, Mavis & Dale Babbitt, Jean Lewis, Karen & Ken Beighley, Sara & George Abendroth, Eleanor & Jeff Owen

Communion Servers—

Ruth Rosenow, Ron Schmidt, Barb Shorrel, Sonia Anderson, Tim Anderson, Jon Behling

December 27-Sunday

Ushers—

Team 6—Jon Behling, Sandy Frohling, Joe Mandelert, Ellen Devine, Jim & Kathi Mandelert, Jeff & Deb Buckli, Diane & Larry Wallenstein, Hess Morrison

Communion Servers—

Bob Denman, Dave Gordon, Eric Haglund, Jan Hilton-Koepke, Reid Kennedy

Fellowship Hosts—

Open

Nursery—

Bev Ippel & John Heintz

Flower Providers—

Open

Brief Notes

Per Capita In 2010 - \$25

All members in every Presbyterian Church are asked to pay a per capita assessment at the beginning of each calendar year. This year it is also \$25. The amount covers administrative costs for our presbytery, synod and general assembly. This is assessed to every congregation. Please make your check a total for each member in your household. Write the check to "First Presbyterian Church" with "per capita" in the memo space. Envelopes for per capita are provided in your offering envelope box. Gift envelopes in the pew pockets can also be used. We pay over \$6,000 so we are helped a great deal when everyone takes their share.

DEACON'S POTLUCK

Please join us on Sunday, December 13, 10:45 a.m. at our next all-church Deacon-sponsored potluck. We need help setting up at 8:30 am and with clean up ca. noon. Please call Dick Kemp if you can help, 723-3013. Our *'Tis the Season* Christmas decorating activities are also planned for this day. Stay after the meal for some great fellowship as we work together to beautify our church. Activities are planned so that children and youth can contribute, too.

OUR CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

Just a shout out to Jeremy Facklam, a member of the Red Bird Soccer team, for the work he has put into our Food Pantry. Thank you to the families who attended the Boo Bash last month who donated non-perishable food items to the food pantry. Together we are supporting the community of those in need.

Thank you to the YMCA group led by Jan Hunt, for donating numerous bags for food items for our Food Pantry. And thank you, Bonnie Gullickson, for bringing it here.

Thank you to the Red Bird Soccer Team who trick-or-treated for our Food Pantry Halloween weekend. They collected ca. 780 items of food. Our congregation donated ca. 247 items the prior weekend during our "Stone Soup Service". These items are packed into bags and will be distributed to those in need each Tuesday and Thursday. Thank you to Jackie Reich who sorts and packs, and Art Schunk, Pastor Boyer, and staff who distribute the bags. We continue to distribute bags of food on each Tuesday and Thursday. Donations of non-perishable food items are always needed to keep the bags supplied. There is a basket in the narthex for you to place donated food. Individual items are always appreciated. Many who have received a bag of food offer their thanks for your continued generosity. So far this year we have distributed ca. 139 packed bags of food. ~ *Cherie Andringa, office manager*

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS-CRIBS FOR KIDS -

You may have noticed the crib in the narthex? It is there in the hope that you will donate new items for children 0-2 years for the Spirit of Christmas. We are collecting these gifts for less fortunate families in Chippewa County through Sunday, December 13. Let's all join in bringing these families some Christmas help and joy. ~ *Noelle Chaltry*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING COMING DECEMBER 6

On Sunday, December 6, we will attach a congregational meeting to the end of the worship service. In an upcoming mailing, you will learn of nominees to fill certain leadership roles in our church and much more.

We will elect people during the meeting. You will be asked to approve by-laws changes to reduce the size of the session (church board) from 12 to 9 and increase the number of deacons from 7 to 8. And you will learn more about other changes in the leadership structure of our church.

The Finance Team needs...

No, not money.

WE NEED YOU! Well, maybe. We need you if you have a head for numbers, like to solve problems, are organized, and can meet once per month in the morning. The team currently consists of our Financial Secretary, Cherie Andringa, who takes care of entering financial data on Power Church and is a whiz at generating reports, our Treasurer, Holly Gintz who writes the checks and takes care of bank statements, Dave Gordon who is great at procedure and policy, Barb Shorrel, who is the chair and does the monthly Session report, and Pastor Boyer, our link to the Session.

So why do we need others? Well, we feel that more people should understand our accounting system so that we can be more flexible. Both Dave and Barb have family in faraway places. This means that we are not always available. We need people to cover for us when that happens. Anyway, it is a good idea to have more people educated about church finances.

An important part of what we do is monitoring the accounts so that we know if we are in trouble in any area. Right now we really could use someone to monitor the Restricted Fund accounts. This is the fund where money goes when it is designated for a particular use from a donation or other source of income other than a budget line item. That person would look at these accounts monthly and discuss them at our monthly meeting.

Some of our other responsibilities include keeping in contact with budget managers, creating the annual budget, maintaining policies and procedures associated with finance, and keeping the Session informed of financial matters.

So... how about it? Are you one of those special people who are not baffled by your bank's checking account statement? If so, and you would like to serve your church with a great group of people, call now...operator's are standing by...well, maybe not. But you get the idea. My number is 404-7404, ask for Barb.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin
MINUTES OF TRANSFORMATION
MEETING**

November 9, 2009

Minutes from the Transformation Meeting – Tuesday, November 9, 2009

“What’s On Your Heart?” Roundtable discussion of events and concerns in our personal lives.

Roundtable Prayer

Discussion of Philippians 2:5-11 - Life to death to resurrection; Obedient to God; Humility – a humble servant

Spiritual Gifts Inventory and our next step
Communications – How far have we come?

Congregational Side Note: Due to time length of meetings and the many items they want to accomplish, the Session has chosen to divide their single meeting into two parts:

- ~ Transformation Meeting to be held the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm
- ~ Session Meeting to be held the third Sunday of each month at 10:45 – 12:00 noon

**Care, Share and Prayer
Cancelled—**

The Care, Share and Prayer group that has been meeting on Wednesday late afternoons has disbanded because of lack of interest. Too often there were only two people present. At any time that enough interest is shown, the group could become active again.

Report of Annual Bazaar...

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 Northwoods wool quilt was Barb Meredith, winner of the ragg quilt was Barb Shorrel and the winner of the American Girl doll was Becky Hager. Becky wishes to keep it a secret as the doll will be a Christmas present. Profits are over \$5500.00 so far. There are still some bills outstanding. Presbyterian Women now have 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—\$641.00	Crafts—\$673.25
Lunch—\$641.00	Supper—\$1079.50
Bake Sale—\$567.60	Candy Shop—\$441.40
Go Green Shop—686.00	Boutique—\$314.50
Knife Sharpening—\$57.50	Books—\$123.50
Silent Auction—\$747.75	Donations—\$283.00
Sunday Sales—\$159.75	Purses—\$170.00

After deducting current expenses of 661.61, preliminary profits amount to ca. \$5900.00.

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, the Open Door Clinic, our church's food pantry, Youth Group Mission trips; and the mission trip to New Orleans in 2007.

~ Kathi Mandelert, Treasurer

Christmas Joy Offering

