



The Bell

May 2009

FIRST
Presbyterian
CHURCH

The Bell
A monthly newsletter

Worship in May

Sunday May 3 9:30 AM

Confirmation Sunday

Worship Leader ~ Holly Gintz

Faith Sharing ~ "Serve One Another"

Text ~ Galatians 5:13-14, Mark 10:42-45, Cor. 8-9, Ph. 2:5-11

Communion, Gary Polden, Musician

Sunday May 10 9:30 AM

Worship Leader ~ Jeannette Miller

Faith Sharing ~ "Encourage One Another (part 1)"

Text ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Philippians 2:12-13

Message from the Gideons

Communion, Kathy Tanner, musician

Sunday May 17 9:30 AM

Worship Leader ~ Erik Anderson

Faith Sharing ~ "Encourage One Another (part 2)"

Text ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Philippians 2:12-13

Communion, Barb Sandford, Musician

Sunday May 24 9:30 AM

Memorial Day Weekend

Worship Leader ~ Barry Boyer

Faith Sharing ~ "Comfort One Another"

Text ~ 2 Corinthians 1:3-6

Communion, Gary Polden, musician

Sunday May 31 9:30 AM

Scottish Heritage Day

Worship Leader ~ Jeannette Miller

Kirking of the Tartans

Communion, Gary Polden, musician

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Points of Interest

Men's Fishing Contest
to be held on May 16

Staff positions
approved for Music
Ministry

Scottish Heritage
Sunday is May 31.

Memorials and Gifts

(Through April 21)

Food Pantry

Karla Stein
Barb Wilcox

Flowers

Mark & Marci Myrman
Barry & Susan Boyer
Doug & Bonnie Gullickson
Rick & Jan Koepke
Barb MacNaughton-Bernhardt
David & Patricia Gutknecht
Roger & Patty Stiles
Roger & Mardi Lebeis
Paul & Wynne Cook
Reid & Lisa Kennedy
Mark & Marci Myrman
Bob & Barb Meredith
Richard & Ruth Rosenow
Barb Wilcox
Bob & Verene Crane
Hess Morrison
Dave & Ann Gordon
Alice Long

Per Capita

Joyce Connolly
Jack & Carol Ament
Paul & Bev Ippel

One Great Hour of Sharing

Ron & Alice Schmidt
Evelyn Jensen
Bob & Verene Crane
Al & Margi Namejunas
Barry & Susan Boyer
Peter Boyer
Norman & Mary Ellen Keller
Reid & Lisa Kennedy
Jo Knoble
Bob & Virginia Koepsel
Roger & Mardi Lebeis
Barb MacNaughton-Bernhardt
Jim & Kathi Mandelert
Bob & Barb Meredith
Mark & Marci Myrman
Jayson & Barb Smith
Steve Playter & Jinx Smith
Barbara Sutherland
Mike & Barb Tzanakis
Gail Willi
Paul & Wynne Cook

Jon Behling & Sandi Frohling
Jim & Deb Biegling
Bob & Lea Dirks
Dick & Esther Frazier
Doug & Bonnie Gullickson
Amy Horak
Vance & Margi Kohl
Alice Long
Joe Mandelert
Wayne & Kathy Manning
Hess Morrison
Chuck & Marge Nichols
Chuck & Chris Norseng
Richard & Ruth Rosenow
Gary & Barb Shorrel
Roger & Patty Stiles
Anne Welke
Barb Wilcox
Dick & June Kemp
Mortgage Retirement Fund
William Stafford
Dick & June Kemp
Deacons Fund
Jim & Kathi Mandelert
Erna Rath

Presbyterian Women Where Does Our Money Go?

Many members of the congregation participate in some way with the Presbyterian Women's Bazaar and Thrift Sale—donating items, setting up, selling, preparing baked goods and meals, clean up--and you may wonder where the profits go. The following is a brief report of donations for money raised during 2008. Please note that approximately 60% of the money (\$4040) raised in 2008 went toward mission projects; the remaining 40% percent (\$2488) went toward church projects.

Church Projects

✦ Restaurant quality cookware	\$ 600
✦ Session Retreat at St. Bede's	\$ 250
✦ Three additional high chairs	\$ 138
✦ Microphone and amplifier for the Sanctuary	\$1400
Under counter lights for the kitchen	<u>\$ 100</u>
Subtotal	\$2488

Mission Projects

✦ Open Door Clinic	\$1000
Starting Points Homeless Shelter	<u>\$1000</u>
Subtotal	\$2000

TOTAL \$4488

In addition to the above expenditures, Presbyterian Women also donate the following amounts to specific missions on an annual basis:

✦ Deacons' Fund	\$ 600
✦ Menaul School (New Mexico)	\$ 100
✦ India Mission	\$240
✦ Spirit of Christmas (maximum)	\$ 500
Agnes' table (2 meals)	<u>\$ 600 (estimate)</u>
Subtotal	\$2040

GRAND TOTAL \$6528

A Special Committee for Donations was developed to recommend the use of funds raised by the Presbyterian Women in 2008. The members of the committee were Ann Gordon, Kathi Mandelert, and Jeannette Miller. The three members gathered information and suggestions from the Presbyterian Women, Pastor Boyer, and the Finance, Worship, and Communications Committees. Recommendations were approved by the Presbyterian Women at their regular meeting on February 19, 2009.

The Presbyterian Women want to thank all of you who have helped in any way with the Fall Bazaar and the Thrift Sale. We couldn't do it without you! Your contributions of time, talent and goods enable us to contribute to church projects and mission projects---both locally and around the world.

Pastor's Perspective

Let Us Pray

James 5:13 reads: "Are any among you suffering? They should pray." I discovered the prayer below while at St Bede Center this past week. It is from the May 2009 issue of Catholic Digest. The "as if life were easy and should be easy" phrase struck me, reminding of a seminary professor who said, "God never promised us a rose garden."

What God does promise is that He is always present with and for us.

Prayer in Hard Times

Dear God,
Life is difficult.
Help me to realize this great truth
and not moan and groan and complain about
my problems
as if life were easy and should be easy.
Teach me to name my real problems, to face
them squarely,
and to work untiringly toward solving them,
or if this is not possible,
then to endure them with courage.
Help me to be open to all the ways You come
into my life:
whether as gentle breezes, tumultuous
earthquake, or something in between.
May the difficulties I experience bear good
fruit: sensitivity, compassion, patience,
humility, and the growing realization of my
absolute need for You.
God, I ask for all these things through Jesus
and the gentle,
yet earthshaking power of the Spirit. Amen

Rabbi Kushner spoke at Sacred Heart Hospital last month. He is the author of When Bad Things Happen to Good People. He said he wrote the book after a personal tragedy that caused him to dwell on the all too human question, "Why?" He learned there is no sound answer to that question. We gloss

over when we say things like "There is a reason for everything," or "It was God's will." It sounds as if we know that God wills bad things for some of His people and good things for others. So he titled his book, When things happen, not why things happen. In other words, bad things will happen to good people. We need not think otherwise.

Well, why does God allow people to suffer? The truth is no one knows the answer to that question. Suffering is one of life's greatest mysteries. Yet, even with our limited vision, we sometimes catch glimpses of the good that comes from the struggles.

German theologian, Meister Eckhart called adversity "the aptitude of sensitivity." Adversity, in this sense, can make us more sensitive, more compassionate. Besides making us more compassionate, adversity can also make us more humble – especially when we deal with problems that won't go away despite our best efforts. As we struggle with our own bad habits and compulsive behaviors, for example, as we try again and again to be more patient, more honest and more kind, we come to realize this great truth: We cannot go it alone in life. Adversity can make us realize just how much we need other people and God's help – a realization absolutely essential for spiritual growth.

James 5:14 reads: "Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord."

Praying for one another is a wonderful expression of compassion, faith and hope. Once a month, a few of us meet in the chancel to pray together and share communion. Bonnie Gullickson has become our leader for this monthly service. It is a great blessing to be ministered to by her and each other in this service. Thank you, Bonnie, for your care and prayer. You are invited to come, too. Fourth Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. For about a half hour.

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



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1st Presbyterian Men's Group News...

1st Presbyterian Annual Fishing Contest May 16th, sunrise to noon, On Lake Wissota and its rivers and creeks that flow into it. Men, women and children are all invited to participate. Largest Walleye caught in the boat (honor system or take picture). There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex and a \$5 entry fee with winner to take home all the proceeds and the traveling trophy too. If you are interested in joining in the fishing fun and fellowship and don't have a boat you can contact Pat Linden 577-0016 or Chuck Nichols 726-1838

1st Pres Men sponsored a table at the Good news Jail and Prison Spring Banquet on April 27 at the Avalon Motel and Banquet Center. Ten people from our church attended— Roger and Mardi Lebeis, Larry and Diane Wallenstein, Bruce and Jeanette Miller, Erik and Traci Anderson and Barry and Susan Boyer. This year's speakers were Dan and Shirley Matsche. Dan is Chaplain at the Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility.

Church Staff

Barry Boyer, pastor
Tim Anderson, clerk of session
Cherie Andringa, office manager/financial secretary
Becky Hager, Karolynne Duffenbach, children's 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
Margi Kohl, church librarian
Susan Boyer, Esther Frazier, Lorraine Gilbertson, Ginny Koepsel, Margi Kohl, Hess Morrison, Steve Playter, Jackie Reich, Jinx Smith, office assistants

Church Board

Tim Anderson	Sonia Anderson
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	

May Schedules

May 3- Sunday

Ushers—

Team 10

Communion Servers—

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

Fellowship Hosts—

Julie & Dick Stafford

Nursery—

Sandi Frohling, Lisa Tzanakis

Flower Providers—

Wynne Cook & Chris Norseng—"All good things big and small, for the Lord loves them all"

May 10-Sunday

Ushers—

Team 11

Communion Servers—

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

Fellowship Hosts—

Dave & Ann Gordon, George & Sara Abendroth

Nursery—

Sara Abendroth, Katie Page

Flower Providers—

Mark & Marci Myrman for the blessings of grandchildren (smart, good-looking, etc.)

May 17-Sunday

Ushers—

Team 12

Communion Servers—

Jon Behling, Bob Denman, Dave Gordon, Eric Haglund, Jan Hilton-Koepke

Fellowship Hosts—

Faith Quest End of the Year Party—hot dogs and stuff

Nursery—

Ann Gordon & Jaime Ostrom

Flower Providers—

Esther & Richard Frazier in celebration of their 35th anniversary.

May 24-Sunday

Ushers—

Team 13

Communion Servers—

Reid Kennedy, Sue Maitland, Bruce Miller, Ruth Rosenow, Ron Schmidt

Fellowship Hosts—

TBD

Nursery—

Sara Abendroth, Jo Knoble

Flower Providers—

Jo Knoble in celebration of Mary's birthday on the 28th and Jo's on the 17th.

May 31-Sunday

Ushers—

Team 1

Communion Servers—

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

Fellowship Hosts—

Heritage Sunday Picnic

Nursery—

Chris Norseng & Lauren Koepke

Flower Providers—

Gary & Barb Shorrel in celebration of Gary's mother on her 90th birthday today



Brief Notes

SESSION APPROVES NEW STAFF POSITIONS

Last Tuesday, the session (church board) approved new staff positions for music, and children and youth ministries.

We are pleased to announce that Gary Polden, Barbara Sandford and Barb Smith will share in providing musical leadership. Barb Smith will continue her choir leadership as a volunteer. We are very grateful for Barb's generosity. Gary Polden will work with Barb Smith in guiding the choir. He will oversee scheduling of special music during the summer. Gary will meet regularly with the worship leaders team. Barb Sandford and Gary will share the work of Sunday morning service music, normally on alternate weeks.

A children and youth ministries director's position (half-time) has been created and advertising the opening has already begun. It is described as a "cradle to college" ministry.

OPEN DOOR CLINIC CELEBRATES 3RD ANNIVERSARY

It is hard to believe, but the Open Door Clinic is celebrating its third anniversary. On Tuesday April 14th we celebrated with cake, and ironically had a record number of patients (41) for a single clinic night. In our first three years, we have had 3752 visits by over 1000 different patients. We have provided over 6000 prescriptions to those patients. This would not be possible without incredible support from many, many people including the congregation of First Presbyterian.

Every time I talk about the clinic, people are impressed with the fact the space for the clinic is donated by the congregation. It is hard to put a monetary value on that donation but it is clearly many thousands of dollars.

So, on behalf of the patients, Board, volunteers and staff (that would be me) of the Open Door Clinic - thank you all very much.

Deb Biegging Clinic Coordinator—Open Door Clinic

PAYING OUR SHARE OF THE RECONSTRUCTION OF CENTRAL STREET...

As you know if you have traveled the street in front of our church, it is under construction. The city is replacing water and sewer mains, replacing curb, gutter and sidewalks, and resurfacing the street. We have been notified by the city that the preliminary estimate of our church's share of the cost to repair Central Street will be \$9143.00. The Finance Team has discussed paying for this assessment by putting in our budget for the next 9 or 10 years beginning in 2010. The interest rate offered by the city is 3.4% per annum. The first payment is due February 10, 2010.

As always, if anyone wishes to make a special donation for the street assessment, please be sure to designate that on the memo line of your check. We will track those donations and add it to our budgeted payment amount in February, 2010.

DEACON'S FUND

In addition to the Food Pantry at our church, we distribute support to persons in need of gas and food vouchers on an emergency basis. Pastor Boyer manages the fund. Art Schunk is in the office on Thursday mornings to distribute Food Pantry bags and the other funds. This spring we were able to assist approximately 90 individual cases.

SUMMARY OF APRIL 21, 2009 SESSION MEETING.

I. TRANSFORMATION PLANS AND PROGRESS

The discussion was moderated by Reid Kennedy. The following committee reports were made:

- A. SCIT@ (Seeking Constructive Input Team). Barb Shorrel.
- B. Welcoming. Dave Gordon.
- C. Hospitality. Sonia Anderson.
- D. Visiting other churches. Sue Maitland.
- E. Computer system. Dave Gordon.
- F. Video system. Dave Gordon.
- G. Support group for CYMD (children and youth ministries director).

Following these reports, it was moved, seconded and carried ("MSC") to require all session members to re-read the Bandy report prior to the next session meeting.

II. CLERK'S REPORT

- A. **MSC** to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2009 regular session, the March 8 special session meeting and the February 8 congregational meeting.
- B. Correspondence was reviewed.
- C. Membership changes. Margaret, Craig and Meghan Feiler and Brian Crane have requested that their names be moved to the inactive rolls of the church. **MSC** to approve.

III. PASTOR'S REPORT

- A. Written report reviewed. With respect to item #4 of the written report, discussion and approval of gifts to Holly Gintz, Becky Hager and Karolyne Duffenbach in appreciation for their service to the church.

V. SUPPORT MINISTRIES REPORTS

- A. Finance. B. Shorrel.
 - i. **MSC** to approve treasurer's report.
 - ii. Central St. improvements. The church's share of the special assessment will be \$9,143; we will have up to 10 years to pay this at an interest rate of approximately 3.8%.
 - iii. The finance team recently made a \$10,000 principal payment on the mortgage.
- B. Personnel. R. Rosenow.
 - 5 i. After discussion, **MSC** to engage Gary Polden and Barb Sandford as worship musicians per written proposal submitted and **MSC** to approve written job description for children's and youth ministries director.
- C. Communications. J. Hilton-Koepke.
 - i. First edition of "E-Bell" distributed.
 - ii. A shortened version of each month's session minutes will be included in the Bell.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Heritage Sunday. Written report by Jeanette Miller reviewed. This will be observed on May 31, 2009.
- B. Open Door Clinic. Review of written report from Director Deb Bieging, M.D. regarding the approximate rental value of the space donated by the church for use by the clinic.
- C. Church in the park. **MSC** to approve either August 9 or 23 for a worship service in Irvine Park, with a potluck to follow.

The Kirkin' O' the Tartans...

Have you ever been to a "kirkin o' the tartans? Well, we haven't either but we will be having one at our church on May 31! We will celebrate Heritage Sunday (and Pentecost). A kirkin' (*kirk* means church) is gathering of Scottish Americans and their descendants for the purpose of worshipping Almighty God who empowers all nation and peoples.



Traditionally, during the worship service, all Scottish descendants in the congregation who are holding their various clan tartans will present them and be named. The tartans represent the families and organizations which keep alive the Scottish arts and heritage.

The presenters come seeking God's blessing on their families and the land of their origin, while at the same time recognizing that all are under the care of the God who has given us life.

As this is being written 21 families have listed their tartans with us. It is exciting to see the interest and enthusiasm being generated as members check with their relatives or go online searching for information on their heritage!

There will be a colorful procession led by a bagpiper into the sanctuary as the service begins. Make it a point to be with us for a meaningful worship that celebrates our heritage and faith.

Here are some details;

If you are even a wee bit Scotch please tell us what clan you descended from. These will be projected onto our screens during the service so we need them well in advance to get the pictures set for the computers.

Every Scot that wishes too will be part of the procession. Wear your tartan anyway you wish. There are at least four kilt wearers in our church family, maybe more. Any other way you choose to wear your tartan is fine.

Following the service we will join with the congregation of First Presbyterian Eau Claire to do a commemoration service at Forest Hill Cemetery for the restoration of the McNair headstone. (Rev. McNair founded both of these churches.) (11:30)

This brief commemoration will feature the unveiling of the monument, a trio of singing pastors and of course a bagpiper. A representative of the Wisconsin State Historical Society will also join us.

Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on and bring a picnic lunch to enjoy. **There will be homemade scones and homemade Scotch shortbread serve for desert.**

The kirkin' is intended to encourage all participants to reflect with thanksgiving on their own family and ethnic heritage and to celebrate God's grace poured out for all generations. Make it a priority to be with us in worship for this celebration !

OOPS. We Goofed!

And now we need your help! Please! It all started as we were trying to search out family clan tartans. We have three clans that were identified but we neglected to list the family name that requested it. So if you registered with us as a descendent of the McFarlane clan would you help us out by re-identifying yourself? That would be very much appreciated. We promise we won't lose it this time! Bruce & Jeannette Miller 720-9458

