



The Bell

April 2010

FIRST
Presbyterian
CHURCH

The Bell
A monthly newsletter

HOLY WEEK 2010

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHIPPEWA FALLS

PALM SUNDAY March 28 9:30 a.m.

children, palms, brass, choir, communion, preaching and praying

MAUNDY THURSDAY April 1 7:00 p.m.

worship at Trinity United Methodist Church (across the street)

GOOD FRIDAY April 2 two services

10:00 a.m., Chapel of the Resurrection, Chippewa Manor Retirement
Community

7:00 p.m., Our Savior's Lutheran Church (1300 Mansfield, near middle
school) together with the pastors, choirs & congregations of First
Presbyterian, English Lutheran, Central Lutheran, Christ Episcopal, and
Trinity & Zion United Methodist

EASTER VIGIL April 3 and 4

from 12:00 p.m. Saturday to 6:30 a.m. Sunday
individuals & families in prayer
throughout the night in our sanctuary and narthex

EASTER DAY April 4

Sunrise Service

worship at 6:41 a.m. on Kathi and Jim Mandelert's deck
at 140 Park Place (behind Korger-Chestnut School)
pit fire, special music, candlelight, communion

Coffee, Juice and Hot Cross Buns

in Fellowship Hall beginning ca. 8:30 a.m.

Festival Service

worship in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.
prepared by Erik Anderson

Barry Boyer's sermon, "Fear or Compassion: What Moves Us?"
Celebration Singers, communion, brass players,
the Hallelujah Chorus

Inside this issue:

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Deacon Sponsored
Potluck April 11

Trip to see Dead Sea
Scrolls April 24

July Fourth ____ Plan Ahead!

This summer the General Assembly of our denomination will be held in Minneapolis. Never will it be held so close to where we live! We have the opportunity to attend the worship service on Sunday July fourth with fellow Presbyterians from around the country. Planners anticipate as many as 8,000 in attendance. The service and most of the week-long meeting will be held at the Convention Center. The Session as well as the Worship Leaders have opted that we should share the experience of worshiping with other Presbyterians. We hope that you will want to also. **With this in mind we are not scheduling Sunday worship in our church on July Fourth.**

If you can't make it to Minneapolis then you are welcome to worship at First Presbyterian in Eau Claire. Many of their members will be going to Minneapolis, too. So we are joining them in offering a service there for those from both churches who are unable to go. The church is located at 2112 Rudolph Road. It is easy to find and does have off street parking around the church. Do note that the worship service begins at 10:00 am.

More information about the trip to Minneapolis is forthcoming.

Memorials and Gifts

(Through March 16)

Food Pantry

Larry & Linda Annett
Roger & Jane Whiting
Jo Knoble
Kathy & Randy Facklam
Presbyterian Women

Mortgage Retirement Fund

Dick & June Kemp

Deacons Fund

Erna Rath
Art Schunk & Joyce Pugh
Jim & Kathi Mandelert
Presbyterian Women
Linda Schreiber

Flowers

Noelle Chaltry
Dave & Ann Gordon
Jo Knoble
Barb Meredith
Chuck & Chris Norseng

Designated Gift

Ron & Alice Schmidt

Disaster Fund

Presbyterian Women

Computer Fund

Presbyterian Women

One Great Hour of Sharing

Dick & June Kemp
Roger & Patty Stiles

Endowment Gifts

William Stafford
Dick & June Kemp
Gail Willi
Gary & Barb Shorrel
Paul & Wynne Cook
Barb MacNaughton-Bernhardt
Mark & Marcie Myrman
Dick & Julie Stafford
Vance & Margi Kohl
Bob & Verene Crane
Barry & Susan Boyer
Dale & Mavis Babbitt
Art Schunk & Joyce Pugh

Susan Maitland
Ray & Pat Andress
Joane Knoble
Bob & Lea Dirks
Lorraine Gilbertson
Norman & Mary Ellen Keller
Steve Playter & Jinx Smith
Gene & Jean Peissig
Jim & Deb Biegging
Roger & Mardi Lebeis
Bruce & Jeannette Miller
Dick & Esther Frazier
Amy Horak
Jayson & Barb Smith
Hess Morrison
Chuck & Chris Norseng
George & Sara Abendroth
Bob & Virginia Koepsel
Anne Welke
Barbara Sutherland
Doug & Bonnie Gullickson
Barb & Tom Sandford

Pastor's Perspective

He Says It Much Better than I Could...

"I" is Pastor Barry Boyer and "He" is Rev Gordon MacDonald

Rev MacDonald is a former pastor of Grace Chapel in Massachusetts and was president of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. He has written many books: best known is Ordering Your Private Life

Jesus and the Health Care Bill by Gordon MacDonald, Leadership editor at large

This morning (3/22/10)—the day after the U.S. House of Representatives passed the health-care measure—I feel a sense of gladness. I am glad that millions of Americans, many of them children, will have access to health insurance. I am glad that people with pre-existing medical conditions can no longer be denied coverage by insurance companies. And I am also glad that some effort is being made to curtail rising medical expenses, and that certain special interest and business groups will be held to a greater accountability, and that the growing gap between the rich and the poor might be slowed.

I am glad not because I am a Democrat or a Republican but because I think that Jesus, who seemed to take great interest in health issues, is glad. Looking back on his life among people like us, he often acted as a healer. He seemed to delight in curing diseases, restoring disabled people to wholeness, and rewiring damaged minds. You cannot divorce these encounters from the rest of his public ministry. Health-care was in his frame of reference.

My favorite of the Jesus-healing stories is the one where a group of men rip open a roof and lower a friend into the presence of Jesus. I love how the Lord flexed with the moment and used the healing to offer people a vision of holistic health: physical and spiritual. I try to imagine the freshly healed man rolling up his mat and heading out the front door, walking unassisted for the first time in who knows how long. Then, too, I wonder about all the people (apparently including religious leaders) who had crowded into that house and who'd made it impossible for the man in his original condition of paralysis to get to Jesus in a more conventional way—through the front door. How does it happen that people rationalized, that since they got there first, the suffering guy outside should be left to his own devices?

My readings of the life of Jesus convince me that our Lord wants people to be well. As described by the Gospel writers, he often seems disgusted by disease, offended by death. I love to read about those moments when even his better friends wanted to avoid sick people and when they paid more attention to the demands of a schedule than the needs of human beings. On such occasions Jesus would usually cut through the resistance and respond to the cries of someone who was blind or who had a child that was sick, even dying.

I love the moment in Acts 3, when Peter and John approach the Temple and spot a disabled man (from birth) begging. Earlier they wouldn't have given him the time of day as they hurried on their way. But Jesus had rubbed off on them. Now they noticed the victim. And in this case they tried what they would have resisted trying in the past. They healed the man in the name of Jesus.

I imagine the dilemma of Peter and John as they stand there. I hear them asking how you call Jesus Lord and not ultimately inherit some of his compassion for those who are sick and diseased?

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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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, Mark & Marcie Myrman, Steve Playter, Jackie Reich, Art Schunk, Jinx Smith, office assistants

Church Board

Jon Behling
Bob Denman
Jan Hilton-Koepke
Reid Kennedy
Bruce Miller
Barry Boyer
Paul Cook
Eric Haglund
Lisa Kennedy
Susan Maitland

Operations Team

Barry Boyer
Ruth Rosenow
Dave Gordon
Barb Shorrel

Board of Deacons

Corine Boos
Margi Kohl
Marcie Myrman
Patty Stiles
Verene Crane
Barb Meredith
Jacqueline Reich
Anne Welke

Brief Notes

EASTER VIGIL

To those who want the uplifting experience of sharing the waiting . . . a prayerful time of communing with our Lord Jesus during the hours preceding His glorious Resurrection, . . . we are once again offering an Easter Vigil starting at noon on Saturday April 3 and ending at sunrise 6:30 am Easter Sunday morning April 4th.

Hour long prayer times in either the Narthex or church sanctuary are offered. Signup sheets are in the Narthex. ~ *Holly Gintz, 726-0183*

DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Sign up now to join us as we travel to the Science Museum of Minnesota to see *The Dead Sea Scrolls*. We will be going April 24th, tickets will be \$28 and include all exhibits at the museum, including *The Dead Sea Scrolls*, and the OmniMax movie *Arabia*. This is a rare opportunity to witness one of the greatest archaeological finds of the 20th century. *The Dead sea Scrolls* are steeped in scientific, religious, and cultural meaning. The sign up sheet is available in the narthex, if you have any questions contact Noelle, 456-2684.

CORRECTION

Church calendar information for meetings &/or events should be sent to Cherie @ fpc1admin@sbcglobal.net or call the church office, nor Eric Haglund. Thank you.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S GROUP FUND RAISER

The Presbyterian Men's group is going to have a used tool and sporting items sale on April 17 and we need your help in getting items to sell. Now is the time to go through your extra tools, etc., check out the shop, basement and garage. Please bring your donated items to the women's storage room in the basement of the church and look for the area with a yellow tool sale sign. If you have questions please call Chuck Nichols, 726-1838 or Vance Kohl, 720-8926. Setup for the sale will be Friday, April 16 at 9 AM

EASTER SUNDAY

Fellowship - We will not have our "traditional" Fellowship on Easter Sunday, as we are having 2 services. The Sunrise Service will be held at Jim and Kathi Mandelert's at 6:41 AM. We will meet here at the church for a light brunch at 8:30 AM with our Easter Service to follow at the usual time of 9:30 AM. Any questions? Please contact Lisa Kennedy at 563-4806 or the church office.

Nursery - The nursery will not be staffed on Easter Sunday so that all volunteers will be able to attend Easter Sunday Worship Service. Parents please know that you may stay with your child in the nursery if you choose to do so on Easter Sunday.

The nursery room will be open with the worship service on TV.

~ *Sara Abendroth, Nursery Coordinator*

NOTE CHANGES

Gene & Jean Peissig phone number is 720-1070

Pat Linden phone number is 723-6380

Open Door Clinic Celebrates Fourth Anniversary

On April 4, 2006 the Open Door Clinic opened for business and saw 12 patients. Since then we have had over 5300 visits by over 1400 different patients. We have dispensed over 9000 prescriptions to those patients, all for no charge. We know that many of these people would not otherwise be able to afford medical care or medicine.

It is hard to imagine how this would be possible without the support of this congregation. The recent FPC annual report lists in kind support to the Open Door Clinic as \$11,000 per year for space and resources. I suspect that is a conservative estimate, but it is really only the beginning. Consider this:

- Barry and Cherie deal with phone calls and visits from people with questions about the clinic.
- Cherie and the office volunteers deal with a **lot** of extra mail and packages sent to the clinic.
- Noelle and the children and youth ministry program share their space with us.
- Bob Lindsley not only helps with clinic set up (and take down), but also deals with the “effects” of an extra 50 people (volunteers and patients) here on Tuesday nights.
- Over 20 members of our congregation have been directly involved with the clinic as volunteers on Tuesdays. (About one in six of our volunteers belong to FPC!)
- The Presbyterian Men not only share their storage area with us, but recently under the leadership of Chuck Nichols and Vance Kohl, put up new shelving both in the basement and in the clinic area. They have also provided financial support.
- The Wednesday breakfast team takes care of the coffee cups and any dishes from the volunteer meal.
- The Presbyterian Women have given significant financial as well as in kind donations.
- Many members of our congregation have advocated for the ODC in community groups (such as Lions, Elks, or PEO) which has resulted in significant financial contributions to the ODC.
- We have also received contributions directly from some members of the congregation.

As a member of FPC, I am humbled to be part of such a generous congregation. As coordinator of the Open Door Clinic, I am grateful. Thank you.

~ Deb Biegling



“Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.” – John 7:38

Great news! This year the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 219th General Assembly will be held in the Twin Cities at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Save the Dates: July 3rd – 10th

Watch upcoming Bell and church bulletins for additional details.

Side Note: Hannah and Jan Koepke attended the 218th General Assembly (2008) in San Jose, California.

Save Your Gordy's Receipts...

Save your receipts from Gordy's Country Market and Gordy's Ace Hardware. When we turn these in to Gordy's, we receive 1% of the total. That can add up to a very pretty figure on the income side of our budget. This money goes into the Operating/Mission Fund. It used to go to the Youth, but we now finance some of their activities through the Operating/Mission Fund.

A big thank you to the volunteers who tally the donated receipts four times per year (March, June, September, and December). This is a time-consuming task.

Here are some suggestions to help you remember to save those receipts and how to get them ready for the volunteers to tally.

- ❖ Have a designated place. When you come home from shopping, have a special envelope near where you put your groceries away (maybe on the fridge). Put the receipt in the envelope right away. (You can even use a recycled junk mail envelope—go green!)
- ❖ Please don't roll the receipts. They need to be flat so that they can be stacked.
- ❖ Get in the habit. The more often you remember to do something, the more often you will do it. Profound, huh?
- ❖ Make it a part of your grocery/hardware list.
- ❖ Periodically bring them to the church and put them in the box marked for them. It is usually out in Fellowship Hall on Sunday. If you can't find it, ask someone; or put the slips in an envelope in the office drop box.

Let's make it our goal to do this and see how much we can earn. We'll report back to you in the future.

Hunger/Poverty **Fact** Hunger/Poverty **Fact** Hunger/Poverty **Fact** Hunger/Poverty **Fact** Hunger/Poverty **Fact**

**One
great hour
of sharing**

In the Dominican Republic 47 percent of the household budget is spent on food, compared to 10 percent in the United States.

Frankly, that's the question which has colored my own perspective on the current health-care debate in our country. Like so many others I have often been utterly confused by the arguments and the counter-arguments. I have shrunk from the ugliness of words used by extremists on both sides of the political and ideological divides. I have searched for those who reasoned out the issues with dignity and wisdom. Here and there, I have found them and appreciated them.

In the middle of it, I have come to some conclusions, these being some of them:

Any effort that is made to bring health benefits to more people (especially the weak, the poor, the children) is an effort with which I want to identify.

Anyone whose argument is based simply on the notion that we cannot afford making medical benefits available to more people does not get my ear. The fact is that our country—we the people—can afford it, even if it means that each of us surrenders a few more bucks that we would have spent on things for ourselves. We just have to conclude that compassion in the face of human need is a greater value than accumulating more stuff.

Any initiative that makes it possible for the common person to have the same access to medical science as the rich appear to have is one I want to hear about.

And any group that stands up on behalf of our physicians so that they do not have to fear frivolous lawsuits every time they make a diagnosis and propose a treatment is one I want to support.

Beyond the fellow who was lowered through the roof, there are three other people who experienced healing at the hand of Jesus who particularly interest me:

The woman, who for more than a dozen years, exhausted all of her resources trying to find someone to help her with her disease. The man at the pool of Bethesda who had spent 38 years hoping for a medical miracle but had no one to assist him. The demoniac of Gadera who epitomizes for me the worst depths to which a human being can sink. In the presence of Jesus he changes from this repulsive condition to one of dignity in which it is said, "he was sitting, clothed, and in his right mind."

Tell me if this Jesus who sends a chronically ill woman home healed and at peace, who brings a man who has suffered for more than half of his life to wholeness, and who makes it possible for a man to return to his home and family would not be at least reasonably glad that our nation has taken a compassionate step in the right direction this week. I grant you: it may (I'm not sure of this) cost you and me a buck or two extra, but some other people are going to sleep a bit better in coming days, and for that I am glad.

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