

FIRST PRESS

First Presbyterian Church

404 Spruce Street
Elk Rapids, MI 49629
231-264-8167
231-264-0162 (Fax)

June 2010

The Rev. Harold (Hal) Shafer, Interim Senior Pastor
The Rev. Sandra Murray, Associate Pastor
Website: www.erfpc.org
Church Email: info@erfpc.org



HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PROGRAM 2010
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MONDAY – FRIDAY, JUNE 21 – 25

ONE SESSION ONLY 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

There is still time to sign-up your children for this year's VBS Program. For the safety of all our children and to ensure a quality program, registration will be limited to a certain number of children. Once we reach our limit, children will be placed on a waiting list. We will also adhere to the age requirement for each age group to assure that activities are designed to meet the child's needs and abilities. Registration forms are available at church or on our website www.erfpc.org

Don't miss this wonderful chance for a "High Seas" adventure!

Highlights in June

Graduation Sunday	Sunday, June 6	10 a.m.
Vacation Bible School Meeting [new date]	Monday, June 7	7:30 p.m.
High School Mission Trip to Marvell, Arkansas	June 12 – June 20	
Stephen Ministry Sunday	Sunday, June 13	8:30 & 10 a.m.
Vacation Bible School Meeting	Sunday, June 13	11:15 a.m.
Vacation Bible School Meeting	Monday, June 14	10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Vacation Bible School	Mon – Fri. June 21-25	9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DIRECTORY

Interim Senior Pastor	The Rev. Harold E. Shafer
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Sandra K. Murray
Director of Youth Ministry	Gary Bekkering
Director of Christian Education	Pamela Bekkering
Director of Operations	Wayne Shuler
Clerk of Session	Susan Cook
Interim Organist/Choir Director	Cheryl Knight
Administrative Assistant	Sandra Lake
Financial Secretary	Liz Atkinson
Child Care Coordinator	Melissa West
Church Sexton	Mark Blackmore
Church Custodian	Ronnie Blackmore

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Daniel K. Herlein

2010 Corporate Officers

President	Jane Croftchik
Vice President	James Mottern
Treasurer	Wayne Shuler
Secretary	Tom Calkins
Assistant Treasurer	John Werner

2010 Session

Class of 2010	Class of 2011	Class of 2012
Brenda Corner	Brandon Darin	David Branding
Melvin Matchett	Peter Eckardt	William Clark
Sarah Miller	John Moore	Susan Cook
Nancy Muhlig	Ramona Nelson	Penny Novarro
Dale Wagner	Betty Tezak	John West

2010 Board of Deacons

Class of 2010	Class of 2011	Class of 2012
Shanna Branding	Sandra Davids	Saundra Blackmore
Mary Anne Frey	Jan Johnson	Dianne Hall
Denise Heeke	Len Orzechowski	Mark Haskell
Ellie Holdsworth	Diane Thompson	Phyllis Staley
Adam Schuler	Marge Weitschat	Cathy Weidman

2010 Board of Trustees

2010	2011	2012
James Goodall	Loyal Cobb	Mark Blackmore
Donald Shurte	Jane Croftchik	Thomas Calkins
Pete VanDenBerge	Charlene Hansen	Kenneth Cook
Ken Weitschat	Jonathan Heeke	James Mottern
Harry Widman	Richard Schurch	David West

Ruling Elders Ministry Team Assignment

Christian Education	Mona Nelson, Betty Tezak
Communication	John Moore
Fellowship	Sarah Miller
Nominations	Mel Matchett, Nancy Muhlig
Nurture	Penny Novarro
Outreach	Betty Tezak
Personnel	Bill, Clark, Brenda Corner, Brandon Darin
Stewardship	Dale Wagner
Worship	Nancy Muhlig, John West
Youth Ministries	David Branding, Pete Eckardt

Others

Acolyte Ministry	Gary Bekkering
Building Committee	John Werner
Elder Commissioners to Presbytery	Lou Letsche
Librarians	Gary Fangboner, Jane Lund, Diane Wagner
Membership Secretary	Carolyn Gauthier
Newsletter Editor	Sandra Lake
Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator	Sue Johnson
Webmaster	Terry Miller
Women's Association	Cheryl Knight, Jennifer Haskell
Worship Audio	Terry Miller, Peter VanDenBerge



2010 Women's Association

Thank You - Thank You - Thank You

We would like to thank all those of our congregation who donated items for our "Upscale Resale" and those who gave of their time to help with set-up and clean-up. Whatever you did was greatly appreciated!

Here are the dates to put on your calendar for the summer of 2010. Please note the following activities.

June 10 – 7 p.m. at the church, Thelma Orzechowski will be our Hostess. We will be studying Lesson 5 of our "Joshua" Study.

August 12 – 7 p.m. at the church, Nancy Muhlig will be our Hostess. We will be studying Lesson 6.

August 15 is our "Celebration of Presbyterian Women" Sunday. The women's association will be involved in the whole service for Sunday Morning. Don't miss out! This will be a great service.

We look forward to seeing you at any of our meetings and activities. If you have questions, please call Jennifer Haskell 599-2946.

90TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

The Nurture Team is looking for anyone who has turned or will turn 90 years old this year. We are planning our Annual Birthday Bash for Sunday, August 22, 2010, between services and would like to honor you.

Please notify the office with your name and birth date by August 1. If we missed you last year, let us know, and we will include you this year.

The Nurture Ministry Team

GOD IS GOOD

NEW TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR

Micky Kuite has volunteered to be the Care Team Transportation Coordinator. If you are in need of a ride to the doctor, hospital for tests, grocery, etc...call Micky. She will gladly arrange your ride. Please, if possible, give her a few days notice. Micky can be reached at 231-264-6722.



MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

I greet all in the joy of their ministry. My final week of interim training was great to complete. The interim process in today's world is a necessary and arduous task. In this article, I would like to share insight about the tasks that a church needs to undergo during the interim's time at the church.

As the interim in charge during transition, I am responsible to help the congregation proceed through five developmental tasks. There will be movement back and forth between these steps during this process.

1. Coming to terms with History
2. Renewing Congregational Identity
3. Facilitating New Leadership
4. Strengthening Denominational Connections
5. Commitment to New Leadership and a New Future

Why do I bring these tasks up now rather than when my ministry at First Presbyterian Church started? Now is when the church will better hear about the tasks than when I first arrived. These steps will continue, and should, in the ministry of the church, even after the new pastor arrives.

Let me speak to each task individually. These form the core framework for understanding the interim transition.

Coming to Terms with the History is explained this way. A congregation is the product of its history and leadership. The interim period offers an ideal moment for the church to explore its history and deal with any conflicts, attitudes, and processes that have affected the congregation. Some will have to be re-evaluated because of a negative impact.

Renewing Congregational Identity is something a congregation needs to have time to do, since the natural question that arises is "Who are we now that Pastor Dan is no longer with us?" The congregation has to take the time to refresh its sense of self, in other words—do some soul searching to recover its own voice.

Facilitating New Leadership comes with shifts in the fabric of the congregation. The pastor will leave (in this case Pastor Dan), and some members will leave. Others will step back from leadership temporarily, other members will return to active status, and new leaders will find "space" for them to become involved. In all these shifts within the church, power will be (re)distributed within the structure of the ruling elders, deacons, trustees, and volunteer committee members. An effective interim will notice the dynamic impact of the change that is occurring among the people for their church. The church will recognize the freshness, emphasis, or passion the new leadership is bringing to the job at hand.

Strengthening Denominational Connections is a critical piece of the interim process. Just as individuals call upon friends and family for support during times of change, so can the congregation strengthen its connective ties with the governing bodies of our denomination. Being connected to one another and to our Presbytery — our upper governing body—strengthens all of us as Presbyterians.

Finally, a Commitment to New Leadership helps a congregation visualize new emphasis and direction. Vision will encompass most of the "old" values but will in time set the precedent as to where the congregation wants to go. The interim pastor will decrease in effect as the transition broadens to welcome the new leader and new future. When the interim period winds down, the congregation that evolves will be able to join the new pastor freely and joyfully.

Thus, these five tasks describe the uniqueness of the interim process. It is always a pleasure to be of service. Know my door is always open. I hope to see everyone in worship.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Hal

MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Over the past few months, I have had several people ask about worship at First Presbyterian Church. Often the question has to do with a change they have noticed in worship or why we don't do things that they remember from their childhood. They questioned why we worship on Sunday or why we do some of the things we do. We come from a wide variety of church and theological backgrounds, so it is understandable that we would see differences as well as similarities in our approach to worship. Several people have asked me to discuss worship in my Associate Pastor's column this month. Worship is a very complex subject, and I realize that I cannot do it justice in one column. So I will write about worship over the next couple of months.

For more than 2000 years, Christians have gathered together to pray, sing, eat, dance, and share life with one another. This Christian gathering is called worship. This is where we celebrate our faith through words, sacraments, food, movement, and symbols. It is a place where we encounter God and each other at the same time.

Each Christian denomination has its own definition of worship, but for this column, I will work with the following definition of worship: worship is to honor God and each other. First John 4:20-21, says very strongly that "Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also." We are to love God as we love each other and love each other as we love God. Thus, if worship is to honor God and glorify His name, we must pay close attention to the way we view, treat, and relate to each other. That says to me that what we do in worship needs to reflect this love that binds us together.

At the beginning of the Christian church, there was no one, proper order to the ways the early Christians worshiped God. Churches had different needs, different emphases, and different group dynamics they had to deal with, thus creating different worship practices. Also the writers of the New Testament did not write to a homogeneous group of people, but rather to a very diverse group of people. This diversity can be seen, for example, in the struggle between Peter and Paul and the practices they thought were better for the Christian church. (For further study see Acts 15: 1-35; Gal. 2:6-19).

While Jews worshiped on the last day of the week (Saturday) to rest (Sabbath) and thank God, Christians began to gather together on Sundays due to the new life found in the resurrection of Christ. Today most Christians claim the first day of the week (Sunday) as their day of worship. The first Christians mostly gathered to break bread together. It was around this meal where liturgical practices began to grow in different directions. For instance, an offering was set aside for the poor; prayers started to take shape; baptismal practices developed; symbols and elements were created from early Christian living experiences. It was out of these experiences that liturgical practices began to take shape and create theology and the tenets of beliefs. It was around worship that the early church shaped understandings of Christ, the relationship between God and Christ, the role of the church, the future, life after death, and so on. With time, a change occurred: theological beliefs started to structure, guide, and rule liturgical practices. What we do today in worship comes through the ages with many layers of interpretations.

Every denomination has its own way of worshiping God with different symbols and elements. This also defines the ways in which one relates to God and to others. One of the key elements is Communion also known as the Eucharist or the Lord's Supper. Since the meal was the most important part in worshiping God, the table at the front of the church became a very important place. In the ninth century, it was decided that every time the Eucharist was to be celebrated, the meaning of it was the sacrifice of Jesus and his death for us. As a result of this decision, the table became known as an altar because Christ's sacrifice was happening in the very elements of the Eucharist.

In the 16th century, reformers challenged that interpretation. Reformers Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin were at the forefront of this discussion with different interpretations. In general, they were saying that there was no sacrifice in the Eucharist and that while the presence of God happens in real, spiritual, or symbolic ways, it could not be concretely located in its elements, i.e., the bread and the wine. Eucharist, Lord's Supper, or Communion, for Protestants, has to do with remembrance and thanksgiving for all God has done through Christ. For this reason, Presbyterian churches call it a table rather than an altar.

(Claudio Carvalhaes Assistant Professor of Worship and preaching at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.)

Next month, I will talk about Prayer, music, and the offering.

Shalom,

Pastor Sandy

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM



TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

As our Sunday School year comes to a close, there are a few very special people that we need to say "Thank You" to for all their time and dedication.

Melissa West, who teaches our nursery children, has been a blessing. Each Sunday she is faithfully there with a smile. The little ones are learning so much and feel so comfortable in their new home in the lower level.

Gloria Wheeler has once again taken the 4-year-olds and kindergartners under her loving care. She has been assisted this year by Marcia Hickey, JoEllen Gilreath, and Gary Fangboner. Together these wonderful teachers provide a very stimulating hour for this group.

There are several fabulous individuals that have taken turns rotating through our new Buzz Curriculum for our first through third graders: Judy Matchett, Nikii Brown, and Amy Schindler. These women were supported by Tekla Derks, Ed Schindler, Megan Zell, Judith Wonacott, Lauren Eberle, and Janeen Noecker. These people are the creative force that brought the stories alive for our children.

Abbie Mandeville has lovingly and energetically tackled the fourth and fifth grade class. She raised the bar for these kids, encouraging them to think and explore the Bible. She was assisted by Karen Ruedinger.

Betty Tezak led our opening music program, coming up with wonderful new songs for the kids with a dash of some of those wonderful, old-faithful tunes such as *Deep and Wide*.

A special thanks to Gary Bekkering who provides a very powerful Sunday School program for our youth, 6th – 12th grade.

Next is Nancy Gribi and Pastor Sandy who led our Adult Sunday School classes.

We can have the very best curriculum and all the lovely teaching tools, but without the heart and love these people provide we would not have a Sunday School program. It is with deep appreciation that we thank all of these dedicated individuals!

Thank you,

*The First Presbyterian Sunday School Children
The Christian Education Ministry Team*

NEEDED FOR VBS 2010

The congregation has always helped generously with supplies and donations for our Vacation Bible School program. Here is a list of supplies needed for this year's VBS. Please leave supplies in VBS box in Fellowship Hall.

The list will be up-dated from week to week.

- 11 Crystal Light (or store brand) canisters
- 8 pkgs. of purse size hand wipes
- 500 paper cups
- 110 clear plastic drinking cups 9 oz.
- 10 pkgs. of Tac-N-Stick to put posters up on the walls
- 150 large dinner size BLUE paper plates
- 12 pkgs. of reward stickers
- 18 boxes colored pencils
- 2 boxes of gallon size ziplock bags
- 13 bags of Hershey's Kisses PLAIN
- Cash donation to support VBS –
[Please put VBS on Memo Line]
- Donation for Bibles (\$15 each)

Thank you so much for your support!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JUNE

June 6	1 Kings 17: 17-24 Gal. 1: 11-24	Ps. 30 Luke 7: 11-17
June 13	2 Sam. 11: 26-12:10, 13-15 Gal. 2: 15-21	Ps. 32 Luke 7: 36-8:3
June 20	Is. 65: 1-9 Gal. 3: 23-29	Ps. 22: 19-28 Luke 8: 26-29
June 27	1Kings 19: 15-16, 19-21	Ps. 16

LAST CALL

Please remember to turn in your Village Market receipts. Deadline is May 31, 2010.

Thank you for all your support this past year!



Lighthouse Youth Info

A note from the Youth Director

I wanted to share with you a little information about what youth have been doing in the month of May. The High School youth have been discussing where true happiness comes from. Does it come from relationships, our looks, accomplishments, friends, or lifestyle? We know that all of this is important to us, but our true happiness comes from God. In order to have this true happiness, we must have a relationship with Him. The youth looked at Judges, Proverbs, Philippians, Romans, Corinthians, and Samuel for references to happiness.

The Middle School youth have discussed a variety of topics. One of the topics was the choices that we make and the consequences that follow. We studied verses from Samuel and the choices David made. Another topic that we talked about was success. We checked out Joshua and the example he set as well as the Gospel of Mark.

During Sunday School, the class has been following along in the lectionary and discussing the texts that have been used on Sunday morning.

We have had good turnouts at Breakfast Club. There are a few kids that show up as early as 6 a.m., but most arrive by 6:30 a.m. They have a chance to hang out with others and enjoy fellowshiping together. We are usually eating by 6:45 a.m. and upstairs by 7 a.m. for morning devotions. The school bus arrives at 7:15 a.m. It is always important that we end in prayer with prayer requests. It is always great to hear what is on the minds of our kids and what they would like us to pray for.

How To Get In Touch With Gary

Church 264-8167 or Cell 313-1448 or E-mail: garybgaryb@hotmail.com or www.erfpc.org

Confirmation

Congratulations to the Confirmands: Andy Atkinson, Katie Atkinson, Tia Blackmore, Ali Branding, Maddie Brown, Serenity Cameron, Brittany Clarkson, Jordanna Clarkson, Matthew Clarkson, Katy Derks, Morgan Gilreath, Gwen Johnson, Kennedy Reffitt, Raquel Rieck, and Dillon Thompson. Please continue to pray for these students as they continue their walk with Jesus.

Graduates

We also want to say congratulations to the High School seniors from our church and youth group. Congratulations to Shelby Hawkins, Olivia Morrison, Natalie Myers, and Joey Perrault. Pray for them as they take the next step in life-pursuing college and the challenges that it presents to them. May they seek God in all they do.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Session is pleased to present these 15 young adults who were confirmed and received by Session on Profession of Faith

Andrew (Andy) Atkinson

Residence: 4571 NW Torch Lake Drive
Kewadin, MI 49648; (231) 264-6126
Parents: Robert & Liz Atkinson
Siblings: Nathan & Katie
Interests: Sports and video games

Kaitlyn (Katie) Atkinson

Residence: 4571 NW Torch Lake Drive
Kewadin, MI 49648; (231) 264-6126
Parents: Robert & Liz Atkinson
Brothers: Nathan & Andy
Interests: Sports, dance, skiing, being with my friends, movies, mall, and texting

Tia Blackmore

Residence: 2973 Coral Lane
Rapid City, MI 49676
Mailing address: P.O. Box 151
Elk Rapids, MI 49629; (231) 564-0257
Parents: Mark & Ronnie Blackmore
Siblings: Christopher, Taylor & Tanner
Interests: Piano, basketball, swimming and shopping

Alisha (Ali) Branding

Residence: 3772 Sutter Lane
Kewadin, MI 49648; (231) 264-6030
Parents: David & Shanna Branding
Interests: Being with friends, playing sports, and eating

Madison (Maddie) Brown

Residence: 280 Lakeview Trail
Kewadin, MI 49648; (231) 264-0671
Parents: Mike and Nikii Brown
Sister: Kendall Brown
Interests: Soccer, baseball, basketball, track, and music

Serenity Cameron

Residence: 147 Center Street
Elk Rapids, MI 49629; (231) 264-8270
Parents: Pat & Nicole Harrison & Kary Cameron
Siblings: Emily, Harley, Austin, Conner, Skyler
Interests: Friends, family, dance, and music

Brittany Clarkson

Residence: 11355 Orchard Drive
Rapid City, MI 49676; (231) 649-5684
Parents: Jason & Amy Clarkson-Stites
Siblings: Matthew & Jordanna
Interests: My friends, singing, playing volleyball, and track

Jordanna Clarkson

Residence: 11355 Orchard Drive
Rapid City, MI 49676; (231) 649-5684
Parents: Jason & Amy Clarkson-Stites
Siblings: Matthew & Brittany
Interests: Softball, basketball, volleyball, and friends

Matthew Clarkson

Residence: 11355 Orchard Drive
Rapid City, MI 49676; (231) 649-5684
Parents: Jason & Amy Clarkson-Stites
Sisters: Brittany & Jordanna
Interests: Music, singing in the school choir, and track

Katherine (Katy) Derks

Residence: 6275 Birch Lake Road, P.O. Box 107
Kewadin, MI 49648; (231) 264-8514
Parent: Tekla Derks
Brother: Tommy Derks
Interests: Soccer, basketball, running, swimming, laying out in the sun, and friends

Morgan Gilreath

Residence: 149 Center Street
Elk Rapids, MI 49629; (231) 498-2055
Parent: JoEllen Gilreath
Brother: Grant Gilreath
Interests: Soccer, volleyball, indoor soccer, basketball, track & field, and friends

Gwendolyn (Gwen) Johnson

Residence: 7803 Cherry Avenue
Rapid City, MI 49676; (231) 322-3017
Parent: Lynda Mangene
Siblings: Michael & Jacqui
Interests: Texting, being outside, swimming, and friends

Kennedy Reffitt

Residence: 12003 Bussa Road
Rapid City, MI 49676; (231) 264-0018
Parents: Kevin & Dawn Reffitt
Sisters: Cameron & Cassidy
Interests: Dance, basketball, volleyball, reading, music, singing, and photography

Raquel Rieck

Residence: 6748 East Harbor Drive
Elk Rapids, MI 49629; (231) 264-6142
Parents: Robert & Tia Rieck
Brother: Connor Rieck
Interests: Track, volleyball, dance, and friends

Dillon Thompson

Residence: 102 Fairway Court
Kewadin, MI 49648; (231) 264-6995
Parents: Rob & Jessica Thompson
Brother: Logan Thompson
Interests: Sports and video games

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

Your Pastor Nominating Committee, which was elected at the April 11, 2010, Congregational meeting, has begun meeting weekly. Members of the PNC include:

Bill Clark	Chairperson
Stan Holzhauer	Vice-chairperson
Bonnie Nothoff	Recording Secretary
Judy Matchett	Corresponding Secretary
Jennifer Haskell	Erin Veliquette
George Knight	Marilyn West
Sarah Miller	Kathy White
Adam Tezak	

We have completed the first step in the search process—which is to complete a “Church Information Form” (CIF). This form goes to Session for approval at its May meeting.

After receiving approval from both Session and Committee on Ministry (COM) of Mackinac Presbytery, the CIF is then entered into a database where it is “matched” with prospective candidates for the Senior Pastor position. Personal Information Forms (PIFS) – resumes – then come to your PNC to be evaluated. We expect to begin receiving resumes by mid-June. Look for regular updates in the church newsletter and bulletin.

Thank you for your continued prayers as we seek to find the person God has already chosen to serve as our next Senior Pastor. Your prayerful support is the most important step in our search process!

“Faithful Servant” Series
Vi & Paul Patchen

*Our church is filled with an army of marching
“faith servants” doing God’s work in their own
unique ways.*

Vi and Paul Patchen could be called Mr. & Mrs. Coffee Central because they are the embodiment of hospitality. Coffee Central began so that members who attend the two services could mingle and fellowship together. Vi and Paul schedule the hosts for Coffee Central during the winter months. Their leadership style is refreshing. They lead by example, “priming the

pump”. The first month they did the coffee three times by themselves until others volunteered to help. Paul does everything with an enthusiasm that’s contagious and “inspires others to serve”. When a new person volunteers, Vi and Paul work alongside of them explaining the process. There is a core group of people who have helped over the winter months (their names are listed on another page). As an engineer for Allis Chalmers, where they met, Paul has detailed directions for preparing coffee and setting up the table. He has learned that the best way to serve others is to meet their immediate need and early on Sunday mornings that is with a cup of coffee and a donut.

As church members since 2006, Paul and Vi have one of the best attendance records. (Attendance records are kept by the office from the red attendance folders in the pews). They feel that attendance on Sunday mornings ground the week for them. They enjoy hearing the Scriptures expounded upon, praying with and for others, and fellowship with true Christians.

Paul and Vi are regular members of the *Up North* small group that meets on Monday evenings. During the 40 Days of Purpose event, they hosted another small group on Tuesday evenings. Paul credits that group, which still meets, as a way to become closer to their neighbors. They serve as drivers for the Care Team, and Vi knits prayer shawls.

Paul’s vision for the church is to be “like a family with everyone pitching in to help.” If you would like to help, there is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, or you can contact Lynda Nichols (264-6023) until November when Paul and Vi resume their duties.

A HUGE THANK YOU

Thank you for the following persons/group who served on the Coffee Central Ministry Team, November 2009 through April 2010 as follow:

Dave & Jan Bellingham	Jack & Joann Mayer
Tom & Sue Calkins	Nancy Muhlig
Bob & Maxine Cameron	Parenting Group
Don & Sandy Davids	Paul & Vi Patchen
JoEllen Gilreath	Jim Ribby
Dick & Charl Gray	Wayne & Pam Shuler
Jane Lund	Don & Jan Shurte
Abbie Mandeville & 4/5 grade SS	John & LeRue Werner
Mel & Judy Matchett	Harry & Nell Widman

PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

I am so thankful for the kindness and sincerity of persons in our church to commit to praying one day a week in May and June for Bible School.

We have only to look at the sign-up board to see all the various needs and jobs available. We then realize that Jesus will use every willing participant to be a part of touching lives of numerous children and their families, drawing them to His Kingdom. Bible School is not the only area that needs prayer. We need Christ's wisdom and direction for our entire church.

In the quiet of Pastor Hal's office during each service, people will be praying. Jan Bellingham and I are asking people to donate one Sunday Service a month to pray for our church and any other needs that are brought to our attention just before each service begins.

Are you shy and private in your praying? That is perfectly all right. You may sit quietly, praying to yourself. There is no format. It is the gift of your presence that Christ desires. He "wishes" us to seek Him and ask His wisdom. As we obey, we will witness the beauty of His Will, not ours.

2 Chronicles 7: 14-16

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there."

Please feel free to call me, Carol Sinclair, (264-5874) or Jan Bellingham, (264-9813) if you have any questions.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Audit Committee

This committee has audited the financial records and reports for the 2009-year. They checked items such as Cash Balances, Payments & Receipts, Payroll, Property Insurance, and Accounting Practices & Procedures. Financial reports were found to be fairly stated. We commend our Treasurer, Wayne Shuler, and Financial Secretary, Liz Atkinson, for their fine work during the year.

Breakfast Club Bussing

Your contributions to provide transportation for the youth Wednesday morning "Breakfast Club" have allowed this program to continue. Gary Bekkering has been contracting with E.R. Public Schools for a school bus to transport students from the Lighthouse to school once each week. Your additional giving has met the needs for the 2009-2010 school year. We **thank you** for your financial support of this program.

Facilities Committee

This committee has a current "TO-DO" list that contains twenty-five items. It seems like there are more items added to the list each month than there are deleted. They change light bulbs, build shelves, clean, paint, repair doors and drinking fountains, organize and reorganize, move basketball poles and swing sets, just to name a few! I do not remember a time in the past five years when this committee has been so "stretched" and yet they are dedicated to keep our facilities in excellent condition.

Jane Croftchik, President
Board of Trustees

SAVE THE DATES!

Here are our upcoming summer fellowship events

June 25 VBS "Pirate" Luncheon – Ahoy, maties! Bring on your appetites for our annual family picnic on Friday, June 25, as Vacation Bible School draws to a close. A delicious free lunch will be provided and served for VBS kids and their families.

July 16 Beach Bums game – Come join our 100-strong FPC cheering squad for the Beach Bums as they play the Kalamazoo Kings, and enjoy the fireworks display that evening. Tickets are just \$5/person or \$10/family with all money going to mission. We'll carpool from the church parking lot at 6 p.m.

July 26 Ecumenical service in the park – A lovely setting in Memorial Park for a meaningful, community-wide worship service followed by a potluck

August 22 & 29 Historic walks around Elk Rapids – Back by popular demand, Adam Schuler and Terry Miller will again meander the streets of our village with fellowship friends & neighbors, noting historic points of interest and sharing village folklore. Last year more than 100 people enjoyed these walks. (Church bus will be available for those unable to walk.)

PARADIGMS OF GIVING

Pastor Sandy recently gave me the article "Two Contrasting Paradigms of Giving" by Gary Shiple that seems like a good yardstick to measure our stewardship efforts. Please read each pair and mark which one you feel best describes our stewardship focus.

"Our Stewardship focus is:

1. ➤ on what belongs to us or
➤ on what belongs to God and how we are managers for God.
2. ➤ on the church's maintenance and survival or
➤ on the spiritual growth of members through giving.
3. ➤ on the church's need to receive or
➤ on the member's need to give
4. ➤ on financial matters or
➤ on spiritual matters
5. ➤ on beginning with planning a budget or
➤ on beginning with planning a ministry.
6. ➤ on making the ministry fit the budget or
➤ on making the budget fit the ministry.
7. ➤ on a member's duty to give or
➤ on a member's desire to give.
8. ➤ on 'How can we get our members to do what they should?' or
➤ on 'How we can help our members do what is in their hearts to do?'
9. ➤ is clouded by a vision of what we can't do or
➤ is inspired by a vision of what we can do by the grace of God.
10. ➤ says, 'There is no more' or
➤ says, 'There is always more.'
11. ➤ says, 'Give till it hurts' or
➤ says, 'Give till it feels good.'"

The Stewardship Ministry will begin planning for the fall campaign as well as giving opportunities throughout the year. We would love to have you join us or hear your comments on your vision for stewardship. Please contact Dale Wagner, Chair, to join us. You can cut out this column, circling your answers, and leave it in either Dale's mailbox or mine.

- Pam Shuler for the Stewardship Ministry Team

STEPHEN MINISTRY SUNDAY

Two summers ago, I became intrigued by the message given during Stephen Ministry Sunday. From this and a nudge from God, I started the process to become a Stephen Minister.

Questions! What is a Stephen Minister? What do they do? What is my role? Can I do this? I learned that a Stephen Minister is a "layperson" who receives fifty hours of training. I would be a Christian care giver that prays, encourages, comforts, and brings spiritual and emotional care to someone who is hurting.

Initially that seems to be a big order, and I wondered if I was I up to this. I soon found that I could do all these things, but God would be the cure giver, the healer. Learning to follow God's lead and partnering with Him was exciting. I would not be in charge, God would be. Results of any care giving situation would be from God.

This gave me great freedom from worry and the expectation that I had to be the healer. What exactly would my part be? I learned to pray, to ask God what He would want from me. I learn to listen, listen, and encourage my care receiver, developing trust, communication, acceptance, and love. God would be the healer.

As a care giver, I am a part of a bigger family of Stephen Ministers. I am not alone in having a care receiver. Other Stephen Ministers love, encourage, and listen to each other. At confidential, supervisory meetings I am helped by the other Stephen Ministers. I am provided support, encouragement, and training. The first time I heard a Stephen Minister say to another, "What can we do for you", I was amazed! God was in every aspect of this ministry.

It is wonderful to have God take care of the results of my ministry with my care receiver. This ministry is far-reaching for me because of the process I have learned.

God is always with us, caring and supporting. We have all heard, "let go, let God". It is our responsibility to seek God's way and then step back and give the glory to God.

Join us on Sunday, June 13, and listen to God's calling.

Sue Johnson, Stephen Minister

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL 28

Rev. Sandra Murray called the Session meeting to order on April 28, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A quorum was present. The meeting opened with prayer and roll was called.

Guest: William and Beatrice Geise.

- A motion carried to approve the transfer of William and Beatrice Geise from FPC of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin to FPC of Elk Rapids. Session met and welcomed our new members.

The minutes of March 24, 2010, Session meeting were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Report received.

- A motion carried to accept the Treasurer's report.

The Board of Trustees: Report received.

- A motion carried to approve the Traverse Bay Roofing estimate of \$23,725.00 to repair and re-roof the North side of the Sanctuary and the surrounding porch roofs. The work is to be paid from the Major Maintenance Fund

Building Committee: Report received.

Director of Operations: Report received.

Clerk of Session: Verbal report.

- As we are allowed two Elder Commissioners to Presbytery, we need to discuss a way to fill these positions.

Interim Senior Pastor: Report received.

- A motion carried to approve a Special Session Meeting after Confirmation Banquet, on Sunday, May 16, 2010.

Associate Pastor: Report received.

Ad Hoc Session Retreat Planning Team:

- A motion carried to approve a Session Retreat with Trustees and Deacons for the purpose of identifying spiritual gifts through the use of a Gift's inventory led by Pastor Sandy. The date and time to be determined.

Ad Hoc Team for Vision 2020: Verbal report.

- The discussion of vision priority assignments for the various ministry teams resulted in an agreement that each team is to begin working on a plan outlining specifically how they will accomplish their task. Each is asked to report by the end of 2010 with annual reports thereafter.

Nurture Ministry Team: Report received.

- A motion carried to approve the Suspension of Rules. By consent agenda, a motion carried to remove Brittany Peterson from the membership rolls of the church per her request.

Stewardship Ministry Team: Report received.

Outreach Ministry Team: Report received.

Personnel Ministry Team: Verbal report.

- A motion carried to adopt, with modifications, the revised position description for the Senior Pastor.

Worship Ministry Team: Report received.

- By consent agenda, a motion carried to approve the use of a survey by joint committee (Worship, Christian Education & Youth) to explore Worship Service and Sunday school times.

Youth Ministry Team: Report received.

- A motion carried to approve a free (for those attending) concert at the Lighthouse featuring the Jill Hagen Band.

Christian Education Ministry Team: Report received.

Communication Ministry Team: No report.

Fellowship Ministry Team: Report received.

Unfinished Business: Discussion of the PNC Budget.

- A motion carried to establish the PNC budget from the Reserve Fund at \$20,000 for operating expenses.

New Business: Presbyterian Women report.

- A motion carried to approve a special offering called the Birthday Offering on Sunday August 15, 2010.

Approval of Reports: A motion carried to approve all reports, less the Treasurer's report

Adjournment: The meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Sandra Murray at 9:15 p.m.

Worship Services 8:30 & 10 a.m.

HIGHLIGHTS IN JULY

Independence Day	Sunday, July 4	
Office Closed (in observance of Independence Day)	Monday, July 5	
Beach Bums Baseball Game	Friday, July 16	6 p.m.
Ecumenical Worship & Picnic – Memorial Park	Monday, July 26	To be determined

The Mission Statement of First Presbyterian Church SHARING, GROWING, AND LIVING OUR FAITH IN CHRIST

This we seek to accomplish by
Introducing Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;
Deepening the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;
And demonstrating Christ's way of love in service to the world.

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JULY NEWSLETTER ITEM DEADLINE – June 14, 2010

Website – www.erfpc.org
Church Email - info@erfpc.org