

FIRST PRESS

First Presbyterian Church

404 Spruce Street
 Elk Rapids, MI 49629
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July 2010

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

ENJOY SEWING? HELPING OTHERS?

We have a simple and useful project in mind. Haiti is beginning to establish schools following the disastrous earthquake in February. Church World Service provides **school kits** for children in poverty-stricken nations consisting of tote bags with school supplies, and we can be a part of this program.

If you are interested in providing sturdy, kid-friendly fabric (about 1/2 yard per bag) and sewing some tote bags, the Mission Outreach Ministry Team will begin collecting school supplies to fill them in August when supplies are on sale everywhere.

The directions for making the bags are listed below.

Materials needed:

1/2 yd "Kid friendly" fabric

Make the bag:

- Cut two pieces of fabric 13"x17"
- Place the two pieces together, right sides together, and sew a 1/2" seam down one side,

across the bottom, and up the other side, leaving the top open.

- Turn the bag so the seam is in the inside.
- Turn under 1/2" on the top edge and press.
- Turn under 2" at the top edge to form a hem and stitch.

Make the handles:

- Cut two pieces of fabric 4"x22"
- Fold in half one of the 4"x22" pieces with right side together. Stitch with a 1/2" seam allowance and turn inside out, or turn under and press 1/2" on long side of fabric. Fold wrong sides together. Top stitch close to edge. Press.
- Repeat for the second handle. Press.
- Turn under raw edges and stitch to the top of the bag.

Finished bag will be approximately 12"x14". Place school items in bag.

Highlights in July

Independence Day
 Office Closed (in observance of Independence Day)
 Edie Crider Memorial Service
 Beach Bums Baseball Game
 Veeda Javaid from Pakistan & Ice Cream Social

Sunday, July 4
 Monday, July 5
 Saturday, July 10 11 a.m.
 Friday, July 16 6 p.m. (leave church)
 Sunday, July 18 7:30 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	Penny Novarro
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

ATTENTION BEACH BUM TICKET HOLDERS FOR THE JULY 16 GAME!

What – no tickets? -- Bummer! For those fortunate enough to have tickets get ready for peacorn, popcorns, bottled gum, and chewing water . . . along with lots of cheering and fellowship fun at the ball game. Let's meet up at the church at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 16, if you want to carpool. See ya there!

Fellowship Ministry Team

SAVE THE DATES FOR MORE UPCOMING SUMMER FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

August 2 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 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.)

90 YEARS OLD AND SHINING

The Nurture Ministry Team will host a Birthday Party on August 22, 2010, for our wonderful 90 year old members/attendees. The party will be held between the two services, around 9:30 a.m. Our choir will lead us in a rousing round of "Happy Birthday". We are pleased to honor Mary Foster (6/15) and June Whittaker (6/21).

We plan to also recognize those in our congregation who are over 90. Birthday bags will be placed in the narthex during the month of August for you to place birthday cards for our honorees. If you will be 90 this year and we do not know it, please contact the office (264-8167) so we can honor you too. Please plan to join us for this celebration . . . who knows, maybe you'll get some good longevity advice!

PIANO TO DONATE

Do you know of a group or church who could use a piano? We have one downstairs, where the choir practiced, that the church would like to donate. Whoever would like it must pick it up. Any questions please contact Wayne Shuler or church office.

MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

The human mind has always amazed me. I love to think. Created in God's image we are given the ability to think and act upon our thoughts. Critical thinking is a way to discern God's will in our lives. In this article I would like to show my reader how to understand critical thinking. I believe critical thinking is the optimal way to enable us to grow intellectually and spiritually.

What is critical thinking?

Daniel J. Kurland a renowned advisor on critical thinking states, "No one always acts purely objectively and rationally. We connive for selfish interests. We gossip, boast, exaggerate, and equivocate. It is 'only human' to wish to validate our prior knowledge, to vindicate our prior decisions, or to sustain our earlier beliefs. In the process of satisfying our ego, however, we can often deny ourselves intellectual growth and opportunity. We may not always want to apply critical thinking skills, but we should have those skills available to be employed when needed." By saying this Kurland states we don't really think beyond our egos much before we offer an opinion. Listening and reviewing all the data allows for better decisions.

Critical thinking helps a person to have good taste and judgment. Critical thinking has a *rationality, self-awareness, honesty, open-mindedness, discipline, and judgment* that help a person better understand how to differentiate between human wisdom and Spiritual wisdom.

These are the avenues a critical thinker takes to have better judgment on any idea or issue. *Rationality* searches out the best explanation through reason rather than operating on emotion. *Self-awareness* allows us to define ourselves better by internally looking inward, weighing our own assumptions, prejudices, and biases that could skew our overall outlook. *Honesty* allows us to recognize those motives that allow us to deceive ourselves. *Open-mindedness* allows us freedom to look at the issues from all angles. *Discipline* develops a comprehensive and precise way to avoid being

judgmental. These avenues then allow our *judgments* to become less assuming as we better weigh other perspectives openly.

Critical thinking allows for a well thought out decision once all the information is properly processed. Time to decide and think through the topics makes for an optimal outcome. Yes, to think critically might take more time but offers a well thought through decision. Critical thinkers are often skeptical. They question and analyze their understanding of the facts to render a non-biased and non-skeptical view of their final thoughts. To challenge beliefs and realistically examine the issues with an open mind is more vital today than ever before.

Critical thinking allows us to use our minds as God created us to use them by asking questions and coming to resolve issues that have become hard to think through. As we work together during this transitional period of First Presbyterian Church's life, may we opt to invite discussion on topics we might not fully agree with, or even want to talk about, trying to understand issues that divide and could overwhelm future endeavors in the life of this great church.

May God's blessing continue in all our leadership roles at First Pres. I hope to see all in worship as we glorify the One who gave it all for us.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Hal Shafer

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JULY

July 4	2 Kings 5:1-14 Gal. 6: 7-16	Ps. 30 Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20
July 11	Amos 7: 7-17 Col. 1: 1-14	Ps. 82 Luke 10: 25-37
July 18	Amos 8: 1-12 Col. 1: 15-28	Ps. 52 Luke 10" 38-42
July 25	Hos. 1: 2-10 Col. 2: 6-15	Ps. 85 Luke 11: 1-13

MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

This month I would like to continue my discussion of worship. In worship we are always becoming something new. But what is it that we are doing during worship that helps us continue to be in this unending process of becoming something new. This month I would like to focus on prayer. Prayer has to do with communication and connecting with God. In 1 Thessalonians 5: 17, Paul wrote telling us to "pray without ceasing". Prayer has to do with the renewal of our bodies, minds, and hearts. When we pray, whether alone or corporately, we are changed. Paul is telling us that our life is to be one of never-ending prayer. When we spend time in prayer something happens. Worship and prayer change us.

The early church was influenced by Jewish worship, and prayer was a central part of that worship. "The New Testament uses a variety of words translated in English as either 'prayer' or 'worship,' understood as communication with God either by an individual alone or in public gatherings. In the Judaism of the New Testament times prayer was rooted in blessing and thanksgiving; ... singing and reciting texts of scripture; holy places, practices and ministries; it was part of the Jewish genius that prayer should be associated with ordinary actions in the flow of everyday life, part and parcel of righteous living, No prayer would be considered as totally private, for prayer always had within it a consciousness of being Israel, God's people." (George Culver, "Prayer" in *the Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship*, ed. Paul Bradshaw (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002, 381.)

Early Christian worship followed this pattern of the Jewish tradition. The church structured its liturgical calendar around prayers. An example of this is seen in *the Book of Common Worship Daily Prayer*. Daily services consist of psalms, hymns, and other readings from the Old and New Testament. This pattern is still used by the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and some Eastern Orthodox churches.

We become responsible for one another when we pray together in worship. As we lift up our prayers for one another, healing, comfort, change, and unity happen. This is why we have several different types of prayer in a worship service: prayers of

confession, prayers of the people, prayers for illumination, prayers of thanksgiving, prayers for healing.

Prayers can be done in many different ways. We can use our bodies in any form and position, including standing, sitting, kneeling, or even lying down. Our eyes can be open or closed. We can position ourselves in various directions – our hands can be folded, our arms stretched out, our hands raised. We may be silent or respond verbally to prayer. We can read prayers previously written by people from all over the world, or we can pray extemporaneously. No one way is better or worse than any other, and the Spirit is free to move us in different directions. In prayer we honor God and each other.

As you worship, I hope that you will think about prayer and how it connects you to God and to your fellow Christians. Think about ways that you might want to expand your own view of prayer and let your life be a prayer shared with God and one another.

Shalom,

Pastor Sandy

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Effective immediately!

(Please use these emails now and don't forget to update your address book with our new addresses. Thank you)

Church general email address:

info@erfpc.org

Interim Senior Pastor Rev. Hal Shafer:

revhal@fpc-elkrapids.org

Associate Pastor Rev. Sandy Murray:

revsandy@fpc-elkrapids.org

Youth Director - Gary Bekkering:

gbekkering@fpc-elkrapids.org

CE Director - Pam Bekkering:

pbekkering@fpc-elkrapids.org

Administrative Assistant - Sandy Lake:

slake@fpc-elkrapids.org

Financial Secretary - Liz Atkinson:

latkinson@fpc-elkrapids.org

Director of Operations/Treasurer - Wayne Shuler:

wshuler@fpc-elkrapids.org

Interim Choir Director/Organist - Cheryl Knight:

cknight@fpc-elkrapids.org

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

HIGH SEAS SUCCESS

Our Vacation Bible School program was another huge success. Over 100 volunteers helped to make this an amazing week for 130 children. The church was filled to bursting with children and crew members. The weather was wonderful for sailing. Each day brought special miracles and blessings. Sailors sang great new songs like *Vast Voyage* and *Let the Praises Ring* and ate wonderful treats such as "Peter's Jail Mix" and "Forgiveness Clouds." Kids also made Comfort Pillows and Bopper Poppers and played games such as Drip, Drip, Drop. Included in all this fun were the wonderful messages about God: God's Word is true, God's Word is comforting, God's Word is surprising, God's Word is life-changing, and God's Word is for everyone. The children enjoyed great stories, and memorized five Bible passages.

As always there are so many wonderful people that made this week possible. Christian Education would like to thank everyone that helped make this week a success. See the list of people who helped with our High Seas Expedition. There are so many more that provided donations of needed supplies. Vacation Bible School is really an entire church family project. Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with us.

We ended the week with our VBS Celebration & Mission Sunday. We were so excited to share all we had learned with the congregation. During the service the children presented the blankets they had made during one of their stations. These wonderful blankets will be sent to Africa with special messages of encouragement from our children. This was one of our favorite projects of the week.

Thank you once again,

Christian Education Ministry Team

No Christian Education meeting in July

We will start our fall planning at our Monday, August 2, meeting. We encourage you to come to any one of our meetings (first Monday of every month) with any ideas or concerns you might have. We meet at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

2010 VOLUNTEERS FOR VBS

Mary Apczynski	Katie Atkinson
Nate Atkinson	Gary Bekkering
Don & Barb Bellinger	Dave & Jan Bellingham
Mark & Ronnie Blackmore	Taylor Blackmore
Tia Blackmore	Ali Branding
Shanna Branding	June Baaki
Tom & Sue Calkins	Maxine Cameron
Dick & Connie Claar	Brittany Clarkson
Jordanna Clarkson	Karen Cobb
Cheryl Coy	Jane Croftchik
Caroline Cutting	Amber Darin
Katy Derks	Gary Fangboner
Donnie Fedrigo	Jacob Fedrigo
Sue Flowers	Carolyn Gauthier
Roger Gehrt	Grant Gilreath
Jana Gillstrom	Rae Harfst
Stefani Harlan	Jeannie Harthun
Jennifer Haskell	Denise Heeke
Liz Hinkley	Mark & Scott Hoch
Sandy Holsinger	Barb Johnson
Gwen Johnson	Jan Johnson
Joanne Kline	Hanna Koeller
Natalie Koeller	Ron & Micky Kuite
Sandy Lake	Shirley Landon
Shania Lark	Olivia Lein
Jane Lund	Madeline Manby
Abbie Mandeville	Karyl Mangus
Judy Matchett	Renee Mischel
Nancy Muhlig	Mona Nelson
Nels & Lynda Nichols	Penny Novarro
Emma Oliver	Pastor Sandy
Paul & Vi Patchen	Louise Pond
Kennedy Reffitt	Jim Ribby
Raquel Rieck	Amanda Rottman
Adam & Chris Schuler	Jean Schurch
Bill & Sharon Shirley	Shively Family
Pam Shuler	Don & Jan Shurte
Betty Sinclair	Dan & Carol Sinclair
Jack & Linda Sisson	Anna Smith
Les & Joanne Teague	Adam Tezak
Betty Tezak	Barb Thomas
Mary Vasquez	Dale & Diane Wagner
Lu Wahl	Jane Weis
John & Marilyn West	Melissa West
Kathy White	Nell Widman
Kaye Yocum	Deb Zerafa
Maddy Brown	Madison Babcock
Sherry Boucher	Ken & Sue Cook
Norm Frey	Tom Wiltse

If we have forgotten anyone, please forgive our oversight.
Your help was greatly appreciated.

Christian Education Members are: Elder Betty Tezak, Elder Mona Nelson, Pastor Sandy, Nikii Brown, Abbie Mandeville, Melissa West, Gary Fangboner, Joanne Teague, Linda Sisson, and Pam Bekkering.



Lighthouse Youth Info

A note from the Youth Director

What is it about the word "Mission" that peaks our interest?

Just ask Pam, Macy, Kaitlin, Elise, Marisa, Katy, Madi, Joey, Nathan, Grant, Talon, Eddie, or Nate what "Mission" means to them. This group of incredible youth just returned from a week in Marvell, Arkansas. Check out the pictures and information in the Fellowship hall. For a few of them this was their second trip, each one being different in many ways, but yet the same. Mission in the sense of what Jesus is about the message of life-change. It was impossible for Jesus' disciples not to have had the direction of their lives changed forever! The desire is to present the message of Jesus and challenge of Christ in all aspects. We trust God will work powerfully to create life-change in our lives. Although we use the building and repairing of homes as a way to see the love of Christ (1 John 3:18), this is not an end all. It is also about loving the community, children and elderly, and serve with the local ministries and serving side by side with other churches whom we just met. It is not a work camp. It is not about the way the repaired homes looked when we were done. It is about what God will do in our hearts and lives if we allow it. It is about what God will do in the lives of those we come in contact with, through the relationships we build at the home site and through the Kids Club program. The world is thirsting for leadership. The kind the church can provide. We need selfless, humble, obedient, servant leaders who follow Christ. (John 13). Servant leadership will be contagious. Adults will serve teens, teens will serve communities, and communities will serve the world. By serving these, as Christ commands, we also serve Christ himself. That's what these young adults are all about.

The theme for this year's Mission trip was "More or Less" from John 3:30. We live in a world that is constantly telling us we need more...more money, more popularity, more stuff. But what do you really need more of? And what do you need less of?

Jesus asks us to have less "me" things...less fear, less here-and-now rewards, and less ego. Sometimes we even need to do less so that we can have a better relationship with Jesus. When we worry less about "me" and instead focus on Jesus, we get more...more courage, more time to be in a relationship with God, and more ability to love others...as John 3:30 says, "Jesus must become greater; I must become less."

**We want to thank you for your prayers, financial help, and commitment.
Without your help we would not be able to have this awesome experience.**

How To Get In Touch With Gary

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

"Faithful Servant" Series

Jean Sheehan

*Our church is filled with an army of marching "faith servants,"
doing God's work in their own unique ways.*

On June 13, we recognized the important job of Stephen Ministers. It is impossible to choose just one Stephen Minister to recognize in this column because they all do a valuable service for their care receivers. Jean was "caught in the act" of doing another task for the church so we are featuring her here.

When asked how she felt about her ministry as a Stephen Minister, Jean said, "It opens my mind and helps someone else." She said that we all have problems, but by helping another it puts our problems in perspective. "Serving another person who calls for help is a double blessing because it frees you to love other people" in addition to your care receiver.

Jean uses her Stephen Ministry training to listen to and care for others she meets, recognizing their unexpressed call for help. She listens for what isn't said as well as what is said. She relates that one of these people calls her an angel.

In addition to being a Stephen Minister, Jean has been cleaning out closets in the basement for Christian Education. She figures she has spent about 10 hours so far. Now she is in the process of tackling the storage bins of arts and craft supplies, seasonal items, and teaching materials. Organizing all of these things so they can be found readily is a wonderful form of stewardship. How often have we purchased an additional item when we can't find for what we're looking? When asked why she volunteered for this daunting task, she replied, "It's my duty. I'm getting a lot of benefit from the church so I need to give back."

Jean and her husband summered up north until his retirement. They then split their time between their Torch Lake and Florida homes. Following his stroke and death, Jean has made "up north" her home. She readily admits that her core of friends are members of this church.

Amazing Grace is Jean's favorite hymn because it expresses her deep joy of being a Christian. She readily admits that her life was cold and barren before she knew Christ. This gracious and articulate lady is a wonderful example of a servant's heart.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS NEEDED

We are still looking for a coordinator for the summer Sunday school program, Children's Church. Responsibilities would include scheduling and getting materials/supplies ready for Sunday mornings. We have a great new "Veggie Tale" curriculum that is fun and easy to use. However, you are welcome to use ideas of your own. Children's church is for 4 year olds-5th grade. This program is run June- August during second service only. Children are dismissed after the Children's Sermon,

Karen Ruedinger has volunteered to teach a few Sundays, but we still need help on July 4, 18, 25; August 1, 15, 22, 29; September 5 and 12. See the sign-up board in the Fellowship Hall if you are interested in helping in this very important ministry, or you can call Pam Bekkering, 264-8167.

LIBRARY NEWS...do you have any overdue library books? This summer the Library Team will be going through the shelves attempting to locate missing and overdue books. Some books have been checked-out for years!!!! Please check your book shelves and closets for any "late" books. Your help is greatly appreciated!

A NATIVITY SET OF OUR OWN

The Christian Education Ministry Team would like to offer a huge thank you to the following members who spent their winter months cutting out large wooden nativity pieces for our children's programs during the holidays: Loyal Cobb, Mark Haskell, Merle Morgan, and Harry Widman. Great job, gentlemen!

We used the borrowed Nativity set from The Presbyterian Church in Traverse City last year, and our team decided that we needed our own set. As a cost-saving measure, these dedicated men spent weeks cutting out animals, Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. We are greatly appreciative of their efforts and look forward to seeing how many ways we can use this beautiful set.

The painting of these pieces will begin Tuesday, September 14, at the church. At this point our volunteers include Peggy Bushnell, Sue Flowers, Jana Gillstrom, Mona Nelson, Louise Pond, Joanne Teague, and LeRue Werner. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Joanne Teague at 264-6162.

HOW TO MAKE A GIFT TO THOSE IN NEED THROUGH THE GIFT CARD PROGRAM

The Mission Outreach Ministry Team of the First Presbyterian Church has created a Gift Card Program that allows you to support needs in the community and at the same time send greetings to a friend or loved one.

Here's how it works:

1. Take a card from the Gift Card display board located next to the water fountain at the north end of the Narthex above the library.
2. Look at information from the display board on spotlighted agencies. Decide which agency will receive your donation, and write the name of the agency on the second line of the card.
3. Drop your donation (**checks only, please**) in the box located next to the display board. **Please make your check out to the agency, and the agency will acknowledge your gift.** The Mission Outreach Ministry Team will deliver it to the agency.
4. Mail the gift card to your friend or loved one along with a personal note such as Happy Birthday, Happy Anniversary, Congratulations!

Four local food pantries are being highlighted by the Mission Outreach Ministry Team to initiate this program starting July 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010. They are Acme Christian Thrift Store and Food Pantry, Good Samaritan Food Pantry and Resale Shop, Mancelona Food Pantry and Resale, and the Rapid City Food Pantry.

Please check out the Gift Card display board in the Narthex, and consider a gift to one of our local food pantries.

The Mission Outreach Ministry Team

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

The Nurture Ministry Team would like to welcome three new members to their team. We are pleased to have Micky Kuite, Marcia Sumerix, and Diane Wagner join us. Our meetings are the second Tuesday of each month, at 2 p.m., in the Multipurpose Room. If you have any interest in helping to nurture our flock, please contact Joanne Teague, chairperson, at 264-6162 or Penny Novarro, Elder representative, at 264-8807.

DO YOU LIKE ICE CREAM? DO YOU LIKE FREE ICE CREAM? WHAT FLAVOR DO YOU LIKE?

On Sunday, July 18, Veeda Javaid, a lifelong native of Pakistan, is coming to First Presbyterian Church.

Veeda will be preaching two sermons on July 18 at 8:30 and 10 a.m. At 7:30 p.m., she will present a program about life in Pakistan followed by discussion. Veeda speaks perfect English and easy to understand. Veeda lives and works in Pakistan as the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Education Board that has the responsibility of overseeing 14 Christian elementary schools, high schools, and La Hore College.

Since the 1850's, the Presbyterian Church has been providing education for the children of Pakistan. In 1972, the government nationalized and took control of all elementary, secondary, and university schools. The quality of education suffered, and the buildings fell in despair. In 1998, the government began returning the schools to the Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) and the task of restoring the schools to their previous excellent condition was started. The educational philosophy is similar to the book *Three Cups of Tea* - - "teach the girls who will be the mothers that will teach the children." The difference is the PEB schools are Christian schools. All elementary schools are co-ed until the 8th grade. To learn more about the schools and what is happening there, visit the PEB website:

www.friendsofpeb.org/about_the_schools.htm.

Also, read an article in the May issue of *Presbyterian Today* "Education Is the Key". A copy is available in the library.

Mark your calendar now. Plan on attending one of the worship services, and then join Veeda and the Outreach Ministry Team for an evening of learning and ice cream sundaes.



2010 Women's Association

****2010 Birthday Offering Coming Soon ****

In 1922, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Women's Auxiliary (PCUS), it was decided that an offering should be made for a definite cause. That year, Hallie Paxson Winsborough, superintendent of women's work, visited Miss Dowd's School for Girls in Kochi, Japan. Realizing its needs, she challenged members of the Women's Auxiliary to give one penny for each year of their lives (or a dollar if a woman preferred not to reveal her age) as a birthday gift to the school. The Woman's Auxiliary became Women of the Church in 1948, and when Presbyterian Women was formed in 1988, it was decided to continue the meaningful tradition of the Birthday Offering. The offerings have enabled a long succession of new and often innovative mission projects throughout the world.

This year on our Celebration Sunday, Presbyterian Women will invite the congregation to join with us in contributing to the Birthday Offering. Remember the challenge is to only give a penny or a dime for each year lived. We also would suggest that since this year's offering recipients are children's projects, you may want to honor your children and/or grandchildren by giving a penny or dime for each year of their lives too. Pray about it. Envelopes will be provided on August 15. Thank You!

August 12 - 7 p.m. - We will meet at the church with Nancy Muhlig as 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.

AN INVITATION TO YOU STEPHEN MINISTRY

Please consider becoming a Stephen Minister. Every two years, a Training Program prepares a new group to join this important ministry.

As a Stephen Minister you are not thrust into ministry alone. You will receive 50 hours of in-class training with reading, discussion, and practice in how to support and help others effectively. You will engage in supervision and will receive continuing education.

No Stephen Minister is asked to do what he or she is not prepared to do. You will learn the limits of confidentiality, how to pray with others, and how to refer people with serious problems to professional help.

Listen for God's call. Ask questions. Talk with any of the current or retired Stephen Ministers and Leaders. Visit with Stephen Ministers during Coffee Central between services.

Application forms are available from Pastor Sandy or on the Welcome Center table in the Narthex. Please return application by August 1. Classes begin September 7 and end November 16.

For more information, contact Pastor Sandy, 264-8167, Connie Clark, 264-5977, Charlene Hansen, 499-9702, Sue Johnson, 264-6994, Pam Shuler, 599-2480 or Greg Socha, 264-9471.

UPCOMING GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This year's General Assembly is being held in Minneapolis, MN, July 2 -10. As many of you know, I will be attending General Assembly, as minister-commissioner for the Presbytery of Mackinac. I want to ask you to pray for all of the commissioners. Being a commissioner to General Assembly is a big job. I hope that you will pray for us as we look at and vote on all the issues that come before the Assembly. Our commissioners for the Presbytery of Mackinac are Margaret LaPonsie from Rudyard, and youth advisory delegate, Heather Kane of Alpena, and me.

If you are interested in following what is taking place during General Assembly, visit their website at www.pcusa.org, for the latest information.

Pastor Sandy

STEPHEN MINISTERS

Retired Stephen Leaders [Date Commissioned]:

Rev. Dan Herlein	[1998]	Scott Stephan	[2000]
Connie Riddell	[1998]	Caitlin Richardson	[2001]
Stan Holzhauser	[1998]	Rose Lillich	[2001]
Clyde Williams (<i>deceased</i>)	[1998]	Karen Leskinen	[2002]

Retired Stephen Minister:

Jan Bellingham	[1998]	George Knight	[2002]
Shirley Goddard	[1998]	Sandy Lake	[2002]
Betty Holzhauser	[1998]	Richard Muhlig (<i>deceased</i>)	[2002]
Marie Moulds	[1998]	Jean Ricker	[2002]
Dale Nielson	[1998]	Peggy Cutting	[2004]
Eleanor Potter	[1998]	Paula Glick	[2004]
Carol Sinclair	[1998]	Jane Hawkins	[2004]
Dan Sinclair	[1998]	Arlene Lueck	[2004]
Pat Stokes	[1998]	Judy VerHage	[2004]
Diane Wagner	[1998]	Eunice Winters	[2004]
Delphine Welch	[1998]	Richard Winters (<i>deceased</i>)	[2004]
Robert Wonacott (<i>deceased</i>)	[1998]	Karen Ruedinger	[2006]
Arlene DeMott	[1999]	Bea West	[2000]
Susan Yoder Zak	[1999]	Luella Wahl	[2001]
Marge Weitschat	[1999]	Maxine Cameron	[2006]
Tina Fields	[2000]	Cheri Hawthorne	[2006]
Nancy Abbott	[2001]	Len Orzechowski	[2006]
Bob Brugger	[2001]	Nina Stewart	[2006]
Kathy Magnell	[2001]	Amy Clarkson	[2009]
Don Garrett	[2002]	Micky Kuite	[2009]

CURRENT STEPHEN LEADERS:

Rev. Sandra Murray	[2000]	Charlene Hansen	[2004]
Greg Socha	[2002]	Connie Clark	[2009]
Pamela Shuler	[2003]	Sue Johnson	[2009]

CURRENT STEPHEN MINISTERS:

Ellie Holdsworth	[2000]	Joyce Fahl	[2009]
Pat Koch	[2006]	Ron Kuite	[2009]
Mel Matchett	[2006]	Lynda Nichols	[2009]
Adam Schuler	[2006]	Nels Nichols	[2009]
Susan Wiltse	[2006]	Jean Sheehan	[2009]

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY 26

Rev. Hal Shafer called the Session meeting to order on May 26, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Lighthouse. A quorum was present; the meeting opened with prayer and roll was called.

Guests: The Youth Ministry Team, Gary and Pam Bekkering, other parents of our youth, including Ronnie Blackmore with two guests and Sue Johnson. The Youth Ministry Team presented the results of a survey conducted by them regarding the success of the Youth program.

- A motion carried to commend the Youth Ministry Team for an outstanding job of evaluating their program at FPC. We also congratulated them (YMT) and Gary Bekkering for building a youth program we can all be proud of.

The minutes of April 28, 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.

Building Committee: Report received.

Director of Operations: Report received.

Clerk of Session: Report received. The Special Session Meeting of May 16, 2010, minutes were approved as written.

Interim Senior Pastor: Report received.

Associate Pastor: Report received.

- By consent agenda, a motion carried to remove the name of Helen May Gibbs from the rolls of First Presbyterian Church effective the date of her death, April 28, 2010.
- By consent agenda, a motion carried to remove the name of Anne Therese Avery-Miller from the rolls of First Presbyterian Church effective the date of her death, May 4, 2010.

Membership count is now at 516.

Elder Commissioner to Presbytery: Verbal report by Elder Penny Novarro.

Board of Deacons: Report received.

Nurture Ministry Team: Report received.

- By consent agenda, a motion carried to approve the use of the Max Lucado's study of James in Carol Sinclair's small group.

Stewardship Ministry Team: Report received.

Outreach Ministry Team: Report received.

Worship Ministry Team: Report received.

- A motion carried to accept the gifts of a painting of the church by and from Louise Pond and a gift of a carved bust of Jesus by and from Stan Holzauer. Both these items will be used in decorating the Narthex.
- A motion carried to commend Terry Miller for the further development of the First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids website. Excellent work, Mr. Miller.

Youth Ministry Team: Report received.

Christian Education Ministry Team: Report received.

Communication Ministry Team: No report.

Fellowship Ministry Team: Report received.

Unfinished Business:

Elect two new Elder Commissioners to Presbytery.

- A motion carried to elect Elder Penny Novarro to be our new Elder Commissioner to Presbytery for 2010. Suggestion to put a notice in the Sunday bulletin for a second Elder Commissioner as FPC is allowed two Elder Commissioners.

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

Adjournment: The meeting closed with prayer by Rev. Hal Shafer at 11:05 p.m.

Worship Services 8:30 & 10 a.m.

HIGHLIGHTS IN AUGUST

Blood Drive	Monday, August 2	1-7 p.m.
Ecumenical Worship & Picnic at Memorial Park	Monday, August 2	6 p.m.
90 th Birthday Celebration	Sunday, August 22	9:30 a.m.
Historical Walk around Elk Rapids	Sundays, August 22 & 29	

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.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
404 SPRUCE STREET
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AUGUST NEWSLETTER ITEM DEADLINE – July 19, 2010
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Church Email - info@erfpc.org