

# FIRST PRESS

## First Presbyterian Church

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

**NOVEMBER 2009**

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

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX

**Let's spread the Christmas cheer  
around the world.**

**Let's tell the world about how God so loved the  
world that He sent His only Son.**

**Let's tell the world that we care and pray for  
them, as they are our neighbors.**

How can we do this?  
We can do that through OCC  
and the Christmas Shoebox program.

**Save your shoebox,  
Pick up a brochure on how to fill your shoebox,  
Pray for the receiver of the gift and for the giver  
And then fill it with your love.**

**If you do not have a shoebox,  
pick one up in the back of church  
or down by Gary's office.**

This year we will be collecting the boxes through Sunday, November 15. We will have a special prayer for the shoeboxes before they are brought to the distribution site in Traverse City on Saturday, November 21.

The youth group will work all day on November 22, packing the shoeboxes into larger boxes for shipping around the world.

We know this year has been financially difficult for many. We are still a country that has more than many. If you can still find it in your heart to help fill a box for a child in a third world country, the child who receives that gift will feel God's love through your giving. Prayerfully consider this wonderful opportunity to help.

## Highlights in November

Daylight Saving Time Ends	Sunday, November 1	2 a.m.
Special Congregational Meeting	Sunday, November 1	11:05 a.m.
Community Choir Rehearsal	Sundays, November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	4 - 5:30 p.m.
Blood Drive	Monday, November 2	1 - 7 p.m.
Youth Fundraiser Luncheon	Sunday, November 8	11:15 a.m.
Elder, Deacon & Trustee Training	Sunday, November 8	11:45 a.m.
December Newsletter Articles Due	Monday, November 9	Noon
Family "Movie & Popcorn" Night	Friday, November 13	7 - 9 p.m.
Soup Supper	Sunday, November 15	6 p.m.
Wholeness Service	Sunday, November 15	7 p.m.
Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service @ERUMC	Tuesday, November 24	7 p.m.
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 26	Office Closed
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 27	Office Closed

## In This Issue

A Note of Thanks	Family Movie & Popcorn Night	Service of Wholeness
Associate Pastor	Hygiene Kits	Session Highlights
Blood Drive	Interim Senior Pastor	Shingles Vaccination
Catered Advent Dinner	Lighthouse Youth	Snowbirds
Christian Education	New Adult Sunday School Class	Stewardship Update
Did You Know?	News from the Building Comm.	Thoughts - Stewardship and Trustees
Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service	Outreach Ministry Team	Veterans in Our Church Family
Faithful Servant - Kay Goodall	Reflection of the Past Week	Women's Association

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DIRECTORY

Senior Interim 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

### 2009 Corporate Officers

President	Jim Nothoff
Vice President	Beth Serrell
Treasurer	Wayne Shuler
Secretary	Jane Croftchik
Assistant Treasurer	John Werner

### 2009 Session

Class of 2009	Class of 2010	Class of 2011
William Clark	Brenda Corner	Brandon Darin
Susan Cook	Melvin Matchett	Peter Eckardt
Don Fedrigo	Sarah Miller	John Moore
Sue Flowers	Nancy Muhlig	Ramona Nelson
Ken May	Dale Wagner	Betty Tezak

### 2009 Board of Deacons

Class of 2009	Class of 2010	Class of 2011
Sandra Blackmore	Shanna Branding	Sandra Davids
Peggy Bushnell	Mary Anne Frey	Jan Johnson
Dianne Hall	Denise Heeke	Len Orzechowski
Mark Haskell	Ellie Holdsworth	Diane Thompson
Jane Lund	Adam Schuler	Marge Weitschat

### 2009 Board of Trustees

2009	2010	2011
Ronnie Blackmore	James Goodall	Loyal Cobb
Ken Cook	Donald Shurte	Jane Croftchik
James Nothoff	Pete VanDenBerge	Jonathan Heeke
Christine Schuler	Ken Weitschat	Richard Schurch
Beth Serrell	Harry Widman	Gerald Thorley

### Ruling Elders Ministry Team Assignment

Christian Education	Mona Nelson
Communication	John Moore
Fellowship	Sarah Miller
Nominations	Sue Flowers, Ken May
Nurture	Sue Flowers
Outreach	Nancy Muhlig, Ken May
Personnel	Brenda Corner, Brandon Darin, Don Fedrigo
Stewardship	Mel Matchett, Dale Wagner
Worship	Peter Eckardt, Nancy Muhlig
Youth Ministries	Bill Clark, Peter Eckardt, Ken May

### 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	James Ducharme
Women's Association	Cheryl Knight, Jennifer Haskell
Worship Audio	Terry Miller, Peter VanDenBerge

## BLOOD DRIVE

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

1 – 7 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall



## 2009 Women's Association

Here are the dates to put on your calendar for the rest of 2009. Please note the following activities.

**November 12, 7 p.m.** – at the church, Jubilee: Luke Bible Study – Lesson #9. Carol Sinclair will be our Hostess.

**December 3, 5 p.m.** – at the church

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA

The Annual Christmas Tea is an event that is anticipated as it is always a lovely evening and is a wonderful way to begin the Christmas Season with our church and community friends.

If you are interested in hosting and decorating a table for the tea, please contact Jennifer Haskell at 599-2946 or [torchmj@torchlake.com](mailto:torchmj@torchlake.com).

If you have a special Christmas cookie that you would be willing to make for the tea, please contact Nell Widman at 264-5948.

If you just want to come and enjoy and bring a friend, write the date on your calendar and watch the church bulletin for reservation information.

We look forward to seeing you there,  
*Presbyterian Women's Association*

A Great Big THANK YOU goes out to all those who worked to make our Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction a BIG SUCCESS!!! You know who you are; you either were a server, or cut pies, or dried dishes or rolled silverware, or prepared food, whatever...we say THANKS!

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

## DID YOU KNOW?

... Presbyterian Women served 250 Harvest Dinners with a profit of \$1,700.

... The Silent Auction brought in \$5,184 because of the generosity of the 132 local business and individual donors and the many shoppers who bid and bid!

... Sunday Worship Bulletins are now available on the web.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

Wow, the month sure has flown by. I meet and greet all this month with the joy Jesus gives. I feel compelled this month to explain exactly what interims are called to do as they work to help the churches they have chosen to serve.

Interim ministry is a challenging vocation. Interim work intentionally designates experienced pastors with particular gifts and skills to help lead a church into understanding even better who they are, and what they want in their next pastor. We as interims bring the management of *change* and help lead church members to envision their future through the solid experience in pastoral ministry.

A congregation that is intentional after losing their installed pastor, needs to be purposeful in using the interim in the days, weeks, months and years as a consultant, or in First's case a team coach. Those congregations that don't become intentional about using the interim purposefully have chosen further emotional unrest in the future.

In the book *Temporary Shepherd A Congregational Handbook for Interim Ministry*, "The late Edwin Freedman a nationally recognized family therapist and rabbi, has observed that interim times are times in which the emotional system unlocks. Ministry takes on an intensity that is not usually experienced when a congregation is settling in with its long-term, installed, permanent pastoral leader." A church that decides not to use the interim as a consultant/team coach has decided not to work through the emotional systems that Freedman infers automatically unlock due to the transition time of the interim period.

What does it mean to work through the emotional systems? Three words that jump out and have basis biblically and theologically are *Change, Transition, and Transformation*. The major *change* the disciples undertook in their ministry with Jesus was Jesus' death and resurrection. They experienced the *Messiah's* life teaching. The emotions unlocked after His death created fear and anxiety. Their Messiah was gone. That kind of feeling is similar in the transition that has happened at First Presbyterian in this *transitional* time. The feelings that some might be having can be similar to what happened on that road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35).

Jesus comes along side us as his disciples, in life's transitions, just as He came, after his resurrection, alongside the dejected Cleopus and his wife. Jesus told Cleopus and his wife what Scripture said. They had to be reminded. Scripture tells us their hearts

burned along the way as they were *transformed* in knowing Jesus had been raised, as their eyes were opened after the breaking of bread together.

We see that the story from death to life is a story that allows us to witness what Jesus did, acting as the interim after his death, unlocking the emotional systems and transforming the anxious feelings the disciples had. We are all called by God in life's *transitions* to be *transformed* in our understanding to *change*. Change can be arduous in life if we allow it. The unlocking of the emotional systems can be unique during the interim period. But, we worship a God that makes all things possible.

My job as the intentional interim is to help unlock the emotional systems that will keep the church focused on achieving what needs to be achieved before the next installed pastor, so there is limited emotional unrest in the future. Intentional dialogue has to help unlock the emotional avenues that need to be unlocked to help deal with the anxiety present after a permanent pastor resigns or retires.

Intentionality towards genuine dialogue is key to helping a church be true to God's Call. A church becomes authentic when genuine dialogue happens. Genuine dialogue is intended to discuss fear, anxiety, and confusion etc., which helps to enable church leaders and members to make wise and "spirit led" decisions. The emotions that surface are real and discussing this genuinely in fellowship enables fears and anxieties to disappear or become less obtrusive.

God in many of the Bible stories uses an interim period, because all the stories used relay some form of *transition*. *Change* toward *transformation* usually is necessary for God to intersect with us so God can use us. Many of us don't like to *change*. However, *transformation* begins to occur as a part of growth after the need to *change* is realized. I have witnessed First Presbyterian's openness for genuine dialogue, their love for their church family, and foremost their love for God. I believe our interim time period together will be a time to rejoice after it is completed.

May Jesus continue to mold and shape us into the disciples we are called this day to be, for a world so in need. I hope to see all in worship. Bring a friend.

In Christ's Service, Pastor Hal

## A NOTE OF THANKS

My wife Tici and I would like to thank all the members of First Presbyterian Church for all the help given, the meals brought, the smiles received, and the times we were taken out to dinner at the time of our move to Elk Rapids. The warm reception we received was incomparable to any place we have gone. These are the moments that will forever be a place in our lives as we remember the joy of meeting new friends. Thank you to all at First Presbyterian Church.

*God Bless you always, Pastor Hal and Tici*



## MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

As I write this I am very aware of the change of seasons. I look out my window at the changing colors and I realize that changes happen. I can't stop change from happening. I have to accept that change will happen and work to help that change to be a positive thing. As a church, we find ourselves facing change and looking to the future. My call to all of us is for us to work together.

We don't always agree with one another, but we need to respect each other and work together to God's glory. I don't know about you, but I need to be reminded that it is not about me – it is about God and God's plan for us. God has a wonderful plan for us as His church in this place, so we need to work together, we need to be respectful of one another, and we need to be open to the challenges and opportunities that God gives us each and every day. As we see the changes in the seasons, as we see our church changing and as we ourselves change, I hope that you will embrace what God is doing in our midst and help that change to be wonderful and positive thing.

Also, I want to thank all of you for the wonderful notes, calls, and gifts which you have given me for Pastor Appreciation Month. I feel very blessed to be a part of this congregation. May God bless all of you.

Shalom,

Pastor Sandy

### CATERED ADVENT DINNER

Come celebrate with friends and neighbors at our annual catered Advent Dinner on Thursday, December 17, at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Get set for Jon Heeke's extraordinary, mouth-watering chicken a' la king cuisine! Cost is \$8/person; \$16/family and includes dessert. Sign-ups will take place only on Sunday, December 6, and 13. Watch for more details in the December newsletter.

## ANNUAL SERVICE OF WHOLENESS WHOLENESS SERVICE Sunday, November 15 Soup Supper at 6 p.m. Wholeness Service at 7 p.m.

All of us have areas of hurt and woundedness in our lives. On November 15, 2009, we will have the opportunity to gather together for a service of prayer, anointing with oil, and Communion. This is an opportunity to pray for loved ones who are hurting, for our nation and our world, and for ourselves. The evening starts with a soup supper at 6 p.m. with the service of wholeness to follow. Do plan to join us.

### NEWS FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

Watching the Lighthouse (phase 1 of our Master Plan) come to completion has been exciting! Soon our youth will be worshipping in their expanded and modern facility. It will also ease the church's scheduling problems by utilizing the Lighthouse during times the youth are not using it. An Open House is planned for early December when we can celebrate how God is working in our lives. More information about that will be coming.

The Building Committee continues to develop the Master Plan by completing plans for the church's southeast addition, which will consolidate the offices and create more classrooms. On November 1, the Building Committee will share the exciting and awesome updates to that plan, so watch for more to come!

### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Dedication Sunday for 2010 pledges was October 4. If you have not yet turned in a faith card please mail it to the church office in care of the Treasurer. Watch for updates in the Sunday bulletin and next month's newsletter.

Time and talent forms have also been distributed to the congregation. Please take the time to fill out one and return it to the church office. Each year the previous year's information is deleted from the computer. Therefore, to have an accurate list of members who wish to donate their time in specific ways it is important to have a time-talent sheet from each member.

Please consider serving in a different way this next year. It's exciting to see how God works when you answer, "Here Am I", to His question of "Who will I send?"

# NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

## SUNDAY SCHOOL IS OFF TO A GREAT START!

Our Sunday school programs have gotten off to a superb beginning. The teachers have put in so much time, love, and energy. The children have walked in the door ready to enjoy their friends, fellowship, and exploring the Bible.

Total attendance for September 20, through October 11:

Nursery:	46
4 year old and Kindergarten Class:	19
First- Third grade Class:	41
Fourth & Fifth grade Class:	21
Youth Sunday School:	40
Adult Sunday School:	109

Thank you to everyone for helping to make Sunday mornings special.

## COFFEE CENTRAL

This fall you might have noticed that Coffee Central is a busy place on Sunday morning. The Christian Education Team wants to extend a huge, "Thank You" to those hard working "early morning" folks for providing delicious goodies and treats for us, under the guidance and support of the Fellowship Ministry Team.

This year the children and their families have been encouraged to enjoy Coffee Central in the Fellowship Hall. Children may be brought to their Sunday school rooms at 9:50 a.m., so parents have time to get into service or attend a Sunday School Class. There are color sheets and crayons available in the Fellowship Hall for kids to enjoy after their treats.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTITUDE

Please help our children's Sunday School programs be a meaningful and learning time for everyone. Talk to and encourage your children to come, ready to learn, with the right attitude. The wonderful teachers we have assembled this year give very generously of their time, talents, energy, and love so that our kids have a special hour on Sunday morning. It is very difficult and disheartening when they have to focus on correcting behaviors. Your support is very much appreciated. Together we will make this a great Sunday School year.

## NURSERY AND COLDS

As the cold and flu season approaches, please help us keep our nursery as healthy as possible. Keep your little ones home if they have been running a temperature in the last 24 hours, or if they have a yucky nose, or continuous cough. We will look forward to seeing them once they are feeling better. We appreciate your help!

## CHILD INFORMATION SHEETS DUE HAVE YOU TURNED YOURS IN?

The Christian Education Ministry Team takes the care and safety of your child/children very seriously. Help us to meet all of their needs by filling out and turning in Information Sheets for each child. Your help in this important matter is greatly appreciated. If you need an Information Sheet, they are located downstairs by the Sunday School rooms.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & DEACON'S HAM POTLUCK DINNER

**Mark your calendars! You won't  
want to miss this special evening**

On Sunday, December 6, at 5 p.m. our exciting evening begins with the Deacon's delicious Ham Dinner Potluck. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table settings. The Deacon's will provide the ham and beverages. Immediately following dinner, the children will put on a heartwarming Christmas program. This year promises to be very special as children help to assemble the Nativity while the Christmas story is being read. We tie it all together with the congregation's help singing some beautiful Christmas favorites. We hope you can join us for this incredible evening.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A new adult Sunday school class, "Discovering Spiritual Maturity" starts November 8, and will continue through December 20, 2009, at 10 a.m. (during the second service).

This class focuses on four basic habits that every Christian needs to develop in order to grow to spiritual maturity. The habits are:

- (1) Studying the Bible,
- (2) Having a daily quiet time with God - prayer,
- (3) Giving back to God, and
- (4) Fellowship with God's family.

The class will be led by Pastor Sandy Murray. Please contact Pastor Sandy (264-8167) for further information or to sign up for the class.



Lighthouse Youth Info

**New Location**  
109 Bridge St.  
(The former Radio Shack)

We are calling it the  
**'LightShack'**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**GRADES 6 – 8**  
**And**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**  
**GRADES 9 - 12**

We have been very active with outdoor activities, pumpkin carving and a trip to the corn maze (the high school youth enjoyed the evening trip to the corn maze with flashlights!) One special evening, we baked cookies for our college friends.

What an experience, 30 high school youth following instructions on how to make and bake chocolate chip cookies and oatmeal cookies. In November, we will rake leaves, sell wreaths, shop and pack boxes for Operation Christmas Shoebox, and have a Thanksgiving scavenger hunt.

### **College**

We are praying for you. Watch your mail boxes for a special surprise from the youth group. We hope you enjoy them.

### **Breakfast Club**

We would like to say thank you to Jon Heeke at TJ Charlie's and to Kevin Young and Rick Young at the Village Market. This program has been so successful due to their financial support and donations to the Lighthouse Youth Ministries. We have been having 25-30 kids come at 6:30 a.m. for fun, food, and devotions.

#### **How to Get In Touch With Gary**

Church 264-8167, Home 264-5702, Cell 313-1448

E-mail: [garybgaryb@hotmail.com](mailto:garybgaryb@hotmail.com)  
[www.erfpc.org](http://www.erfpc.org)

## **WHAT'S COMING UP IN MONTH**

Moving into the New Lighthouse

### **New Lighthouse!**

The Lighthouse is nearing completion. There are so many people that we want to thank.

#### **A HUGE THANK YOU to:**

- ✘ All the volunteer "Painters"
- ✘ Jim Mottern and Ken Cook for organizing the painting days and making sure everything stayed on course.
- ✘ And the Building Committee for their commitment to the youth program. Thank you for presenting everything to the youth and the Youth Ministry Team and asking for our feedback. We are so flattered that you have taken our suggestions and feedback seriously.

#### **Another HUGE THANK YOU goes out to:**

- ✘ Jon Heeke from TJ Charlie's for all of his special help with our Breakfast Club operations. We appreciate his extra effort every Wednesday morning to make sure we had delicious food ready to eat.
- ✘ With Jon Heeke's special help, we were able to keep this vital program going throughout the construction phase.

#### **And finally, but not last, a THANK YOU to:**

- ✘ The congregation for their dedication to the youth program through their financial giving, prayer support, and volunteer efforts.
- ✘ The Outreach Ministry Team for their generous donation to the Lighthouse program so we could continue our weekly programs at the old Radio Shack, which we call the LightShack.

**We are grateful and humbled by this amazing support.**

We are very excited as we look forward to the grand Re-Opening of the Lighthouse. We are looking at Saturday, December 5 for this special day. Next month we will have complete details on the day's events.

If you have not had the chance to check out the new Lighthouse, please contact me and I will give you a tour!

## *"Faithful Servant" Series*

### *Kay Goodall*

Color defines Kay Goodall's life. She learned about color and pattern from her grandmother when she visited her in Iowa as a child during summer vacations. Her grandmother was famous for her gardens and quilts. Kay keeps that family tradition alive. Her own garden is a beautiful design of texture and color. She will serve as President of the Elk Rapids Garden Club in 2010.

Color and pattern also was a part of Kay's professional life. She taught high school art for 33 years at Goodrich High School downstate. Kay served as yearbook advisor for 24 years and advisor to a literary arts magazine for 13 years. Because of her work with these groups, Kay is familiar with the latest developments in desktop publishing and photo management. She accompanied her yearbook staffs to national conventions where she stayed current on layout and design ideas.

Kay's talents also include photography. Kay worked with her student photographers, mentoring them about photo composition. You have probably seen Kay taking photographs around church this past year. As chair of the upcoming photo directory, Kay knew how necessary it was to have photographs of all the groups of the church taken well before the deadline. She used her skills to assemble the layout of the activity pages of the directory. Kay says, "The gift I can give to First Presbyterian is a skill set that few other people have." Pictorial directories are available free to those who were photographed this summer. Additional copies are available for \$5.00. You can pick up your copy between services on October 25, and November 1.

As a member of the Communication Ministry Team, Kay is working on a welcome brochure and a wedding guide. Kay is challenged at home by a new member to their family. Lily is a 10 month old daisy dog, a special combination of 5 breeds. Her husband, Jim serves as a Trustee.

Kay began her spiritual journey as a Methodist in Flint. As a teenager, Kay began attending the Presbyterian Church because it sponsored the Young Life group in the area. Her parents soon followed her to the Presbyterian Church. Kay and Jim shopped different church when they moved to Elk Rapids. She feels that First Presbyterian contributes most to community and others. Kay feels at home here.

## **SNOWBIRDS!**

### **WORRIED ABOUT LOVED ONES LEFT BEHIND?**

Are you a snowbird, leaving soon for the south or west and somewhat worried about leaving an elderly parent or friend behind? The Nurture Ministry Team's Care Team can help alleviate your worry. The Care Team would love to visit, take meals to or just call to check on a family member or friend during the long winter months while you are away.

Please call Joanne Teague, Nurture chair, at 264-6162, Jan Bellingham, Care Team leader at 264-9813, or Pastor Sandy at 264-8167 and leave us a name and number and we will do the rest.

The office would also like to have your winter address and approximate departure and return date so that you will continue to receive our church newsletter and other important information throughout the winter. If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please include your email address. Forms are available on the table near the library. Thank you for registering each year. *Don't forget!* Newsletters, Sunday Bulletins and Worship Services are also available on the web at [www.erfpc.org](http://www.erfpc.org)

## **FREE FAMILY**

### **MOVIE & POPCORN NIGHT**

Friday, November 13, 7 – 9 p.m.

Calling all kids from kindergarten through fifth grade and their parents, Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> is your lucky day!! Back by popular demand is our free movie & popcorn family fun night.

Bring your popcorn appetite, beanbag toss prowess and favorite floor pillow or blanket. Join us in Fellowship Hall for an evening of fun from 7 – 9 p.m. We'll start with games from 7 to 7:30 to run off excess energy, then head for the popcorn and lemonade stand before finding a comfy spot for watching the movie 'Because of Winn-Dixie' ("One of the Best Family Movies in Years, a heartwarming tale of a girl and the four legged friend who changes her life.")

Sign up in the Narthex between Sunday services on November 1, and 8. Kids should plan to bring a parent to the movie.

## **SHINGLES VACCINATION**

Health Department of NW Michigan received a limited supply of ZOSTAVAC, commonly known as the 'shingles shot.'

The charge is \$15 if you are 60 years or older, do not have health insurance for this or have Medicare Part D. Otherwise the cost is \$185.

This is only available to residents of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego Counties. To make an appointment, call 1 800 432-4121.

This is NOT available in Grand Traverse County.

## REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST WEEK

"Hello" everyone. I was asked, actually, I volunteered to write this article for the newsletter. My name is Kathy White. I am a member of the church Care Team and also the parish nurses.

While I was thinking how to ask for the help of our very generous and caring congregation, I could not help but reflect on Pastor Hal's sermon on stewardship. How can we give to the church and how can we serve God? I am not sure if everyone is aware of what the care team does, so I will take just a brief minute to list some of the tasks we perform.

We try to assess the needs of some of our elderly parishioners.

- If someone needs a ride to a doctor's appointment, or a ride to church we make several calls to find someone willing to help out.
- We provide meals for patients/families that have just come home from the hospital. We also try to make sure that our shut-ins get an occasional visit, or a greeting card.
- We try to keep some containers of soup or a serving of a casserole in the church freezer.

This will now lead me into the reason the care team members are going to ask for your help. When either Pastor Hal or Pastor Sandy goes to visit someone, if they think there is a need for a meal, they first will look in the church freezer to see what they might be able to take.

I am sure that you may very often have a single serving left after your dinner meal. Or if you had made a batch of soup, you could spare a single serving or two. We would ask you to put it into a plastic (non returnable) container and put on the lid what it is, date it and how many servings it is, and any reheating instructions. Go ahead and freeze it and then the next time you come by the church just drop it off and put it in the freezer in the kitchen. We need more help with this so the same few people who do this on a regular basis can have a bit of a break.

This is a way that everyone could help out without having to spend any extra money. So, the next time you have leftovers, before you give it to the dog, think about helping someone in need. You never know when you might be the one to need some help. It doesn't hurt to pay it forward.

If you are not able to provide a small casserole or a couple servings of soup, then maybe you could call either the church or myself and volunteer to be a driver when someone needs a ride.

There is a passage in 1Timothy 6:18-19 that states: "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

Thank you, in advance to all of you willing to help in this very special ministry. You may reach me by phone at 264-0564, or my email is: [mrskjlw1@aol.com](mailto:mrskjlw1@aol.com).

Kathy White

## OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

We were successful in receiving a \$1,000 Poverty/Hunger Initiative grant from the Presbytery. The grant request was for non-food items such as paper products, and soaps etc. These are typically items not donated by the public which is very generous with food donations. These items are also not covered by food stamps.

The Community Cupboard will benefit from this grant which serves approximate 44 families (140 people.) In October, Reverend Sandy and Debbie Morrow went to Sam's Club and bought toilet tissue, Kleenex, laundry soap, bath soap, and toothpaste. We spent \$300 and filled Reverend Sandy's car to the brim. (It was a sight to see!) A future shopping trip will take place before the holidays, and then the rest after the first of the year.

## HYGIENE KITS DISTRIBUTED IN THE UNITED STATES

Hygiene Kits are being sent by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to flood victims in Georgia, after at least 3,000 homes were damaged due to torrential rains causing much flooding.

The Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rome, Georgia is serving as the distribution center for relief items and the Hygiene Kits.

## ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This year, Elk Rapids United Methodist Church will host the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. Please join us on Tuesday, November 24, at 7:00 p.m. We would like to ask that you to bring non-perishable food items to this service for the Community Cupboard. Thank you for your donation!

# **THOUGHTS ABOUT STEWARDSHIP AND TRUSTEES**

**Presented During "Minutes for Mission" on Sunday, September 27, 2009**  
**Jim Nothoff, President, Board of Trustees**

## **How do I explain the duties of the Trustees in 2-3 minutes?**

I do not! The details and a thumbnail of each committee are in your Bulletin, and Trustee names are also, so please ask one of us about what we do!

## **How did I become involved as a Trustee?**

After Bonnie and I joined the church in 2003, it must have been my lucky day when Mark Haskell came from one side of the Sanctuary, and Bill Gauthier from the other, meeting me in the middle to ask if I would be willing to serve on the Facilities Committee.

## **"What does the Facilities Committee do?" I asked innocently?**

"We do light maintenance, fix things around the Church and Lighthouse, do yard clean up, and mostly work with our hands," I was told! "We just work to keep the church in good condition!"

## **Have any of you ever tried to say "no" to Bill or Mark? Impossible!**

## **"Sure, sign me up," I replied, "but what time commitment is needed?"**

"One meeting per month," Bill said. And Mark added, "All project work is optional, and any time you choose to spend is entirely voluntary!" ENTIRELY VOLUNTARY!

## **Well, .....this is exactly what I wanted, and why I am here today, asking you to join into an exciting process of volunteerism!**

We all volunteer our time, talent, and increasingly limited resources, and energy to do what we each believe is most important in our lives!!

Many of us on the Board of Trustees, or who sit on its committees, do our best to give of our finances and more!! But like all of you, sometimes our desires outstrip our wallets, and so we choose to give of our time and energy as well as our finances!

You may ask how we give, and where we spend our time and energies! There are seven committees, and each has a different and important function!

Today, I emphasize the two most visible groups, the Facilities and Finance committees. Each depends on the other, because if we cannot afford something, (finance), we need to do it ourselves, (facilities), or go without it.

Does this sound familiar.....? It is just like home!

## **Perhaps this is one reason we are called a "church family" .....? What do you think?**

When the dollars are there, trustees recommend reasonable budgets to the Session for all operations and services of the church! Thank you!

When the dollars are not there, the trustees recommend budget cuts to Session, and there are only so many places we can cut without sacrificing greatly!

Recently, the dollars have not been there, and we have cut our valuable personnel; we have cut our purchases of equipment, material, and supplies! We have cut our energy costs to the bone, and dialed down, insulated, used compact fluorescent light bulbs, adjusted timers to turn heating and air conditioning on or off; and done all we can think of to save precious finances.

In the absence of a needed roof replacement, we (facilities) are donating the time and skill to change the slope of the north side flat roof to prevent leaks so we can finally patch the drywall by the drinking fountain! There are two more flat roofs over the nursery and the kitchen!

## **We saved nearly \$5,000 by rebuilding the S.E. door and adding weather stripping. We truly have some talented volunteers!**

Our efforts to conserve your funds can be seen all around us!

- Look at these fans installed a few years ago to save on energy!
- Look at these lights; we try to coordinate changing or replacing them. Think of it! How many trustees.....?
- Look at the new parking lot. Facilities members worked with the Building Committee to coordinate construction of it.
- As you enter the church, look at the new handrails we had extended so members who need this assist can use them without hurting their knuckles!
- We assist, oversee, or make sure that snow is removed, grass is cut, the church is clean and ready for your worship and use; that the Lighthouse is a clean and safe place for our youth, and recently that the manse was ready for Pastor Hal to have a nice home for his family!

Just as Mark and Bill came to me to join facilities, and Bill then asked me to join the trustees, we ask you to join us in this spirit of giving of your finances, time, talent, or energy!

One night when Bill Gauthier and I were leaving a trustees' meeting, I turned to him and said "Bill, I know that you and Carolyn are generous with both your time and your money, but just why do you volunteer to serve on five committees?"

## **He turned to me, looked directly into my eyes and said....."Why not?"**

And so in Bill's name, and in His name, I ask you,

**Why not?**

# VETERANS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

David Bartel  
ARMY

Donald R. Bellinger  
NAVY

David E. Bellingham  
AIR FORCE

Gary Blackmore  
ARMY

Robert Brugger  
ARMY

Lloyd E. Butler  
NAVY

Robert Cameron  
NAVY

Robert Charlton  
AIR FORCE

Stanley F. Chilson  
NAVY SEABEES

Dick Claar  
ARMY RESERVE

Loyal Cobb  
ARMY

Thomas D. Cole  
AIR FORCE

Gerald D. Corey  
NAVY

Gregory J. Croftchik  
ARMY

Frederick Davis  
ARMY

James Dowd  
NAVY

James Ducharme  
NAVY

Walter Dust  
ARMY

Peter Eckardt  
NATIONAL GUARD

Daniel Ernst  
AIR FORCE

William Fahl  
ARMY

Gary Fangboner  
NATIONAL GUARD

Nilah Farmer  
NAVY

Joseph Fisher  
ARMY

Omer Foret  
ARMY

Donald W. Garrett  
NAVY

Richard Gibbs  
ARMY

James Goetz  
ARMY

Marshall Haskell  
ARMY

Lee Hawkins, M.D.  
NAVY

William C. Holsinger  
ARMY & COAST GUARD

Stanley B. Holzhauer  
NAVY AMPHIBIOUS  
FORCES

John Howlett  
ARMY

Ralph Hunt  
ARMY

David Hutchinson  
AIR FORCE

Vern Kinner  
AIR FORCE

George R. Knight  
MARINES

Jack Koch  
ARMY

Duane Kunderinger  
ARMY

George Landon  
AIR FORCE

William A. Larson  
MARINES

William A. Letsche  
ARMY

James Lund  
MARINES

James May  
ARMY

Terry Miller  
AIR FORCE

Earl A. Morrison  
NAVY

Robert Morrison, D.D.S  
NAVY

James Mottern  
AIR FORCE RESERVES

Donald Mullen  
AIR FORCE

Larry Munsey  
AIR FORCE

Edson Murray  
NAVY

Rev. Sandra Murray  
ARMY

Leonard Orzechowski  
ARMY

David J. Piper  
NATIONAL GUARD

Philip Pomber  
ARMY

Harry M. Potter  
AIR FORCE

Dennis Prebee  
ARMY

Kenneth R. Price  
ARMY

Ernest Quigel  
ARMY

George E. Riddell  
NAVY & NAVAL  
RESERVES

Louis H. Sanford  
NAVY

Henry Schantz  
NAVY

Richard Schurch  
ARMY

Jack Sisson  
NAVY

Cecil S. Smith  
ARMY

Tom Stokes  
AIR FORCE

Harold Swoffer  
NAVY

William S. Telford  
AIR FORCE

David Templin  
NAVY

Charles Thomas  
MARINES

Gerald R. Thorley  
ARMY

Maurice B. Townsend  
ARMY

Ed Weede  
MARINES

Rick Weir  
NAVY

Kenneth Weitschat  
NAVY

David West  
NAVY & MARINES

John West, Jr.  
NAVY

Jack Wheeler  
NAVY

Harry Widman  
ARMY

Arthur Wilkes  
AIR FORCE

## ACTIVE DUTY

**Please keep these  
men and women  
in your prayers**

Brooks Banwell  
U.S. MARINE CORPS

Lt. Cmdr. William Bushnell  
U.S. NAVY

Anthony Evon  
MARINE CORPS

Sgt. Nicholas Gerfen  
ARMY

Robert J. Hasenauer III  
NAVY

Jon David Hedin  
U.S. NAVY

Sgt. Brandon Johnson  
ARMY

LCPL. Michael Kuite  
MARINES

Cpl. Randall McCommas  
MARINES

Col. James Murray  
AIR FORCE

Morgan Weir  
NAVY

Sgt. Matthew West  
ARMY

Michael West  
ARMY

Jeffrey A. White  
U.S. COAST GUARD

Michael E. White  
U.S. COAST GUARD

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

Rev. Hal Shafer called the Session meeting to order on September 23, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A quorum was present and the meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Shafer. Roll was called

**Guest:** Trustee, Jon Heeke, Jim Ducharme of the Communications Ministry Team, Members from the Building Committee, Charlene Hansen, Stan Holzauer, Karen Shaw.

The minutes of August 26, 2009 Session meeting were approved as printed.

**Treasurer Report:** Report received: A motion carried to accept the Treasurer's report.

**The Board of Trustees:** Report received.

- A motion carried to approve the "Borrowing Resolution."

**Building Committee:** Report received.

- A motion carried to approve the calling of a special congregational meeting on November 1, 2009. The Building Committee will make an informational presentation and request for approval from the congregation to proceed with the construction of the office addition. This has been approved with the support of Session to proceed with Phase II of the SE addition of the office and Narthex.

**Director of Operations:** Report received.

**Clerk of Session:** No report

**Senior Interim Pastor:** Report received.

- A motion carried to place on the Congregational Meeting Agenda for October 18, 2009, a request to bestow the Honor of Pastor Emeritus to Dr. Reverend Daniel Herlein.

**Associate Pastor:** The activity report of Rev. Murray was received.

**2009 Nomination Ministry Team:**

- A motion carried to approve the nominations of the following candidates for the Class of 2012:
- **Elders:** Sue Cook, Dr. David Branding, William Clark, Penny Novarro, and Jim Ducharme

- **Deacons:** Mark Haskell, Dianne Hall, Cathy Weidman, Phyllis Staley, and Sandra Blackmore

- **Trustees:** Mark Blackmore, James Mottern, David West, Ken Cook, and Thomas Calkins

- **Nominations Ministry Team:** Sue Flowers, Ken May and Louis Sanford

**Christian Education Ministry Team:** Report received.

**Communication Ministry Team:** Verbal report received.

**Fellowship Ministry Team:** Verbal report.

- Successful and well received historical tour of Elk Rapids.

**Nurture Ministry Team:** Report received.

**Stewardship Ministry Team:** Report received.

**Outreach Ministry Team:** Report received.

**Personnel Ministry Team:** No report.

**Worship Ministry Team:** Report received.

**Youth Ministries:** Report received.

- A motion carried to approve the obtaining of a "pop machine" through Coke for the LightShack/LightHouse.

- A motion carried to approve the charging of a small amount to purchase soft drinks or water at the LightShack/LightHouse

**New Business:**

- Discussion of upcoming Confirmation class. A motion carried to accept the "Making of Disciples," a 13 week course by William Willimon to be taught by Pastor Hal.

**Approval of Reports.** A motion carried to approve all reports, less the Treasurer report.

Meeting adjourned with prayer by Pastor Murray 9:48 p. m.

## Worship Services 8:30 & 10 a.m.

### HIGHLIGHTS IN DECEMBER

	<b>Grand Reopening of Lighthouse</b>	
Annual Christmas Tea	Thursday, December 3	5 p.m.
Christmas Program and Meal	Sunday, December 6	5 p.m.
Community Choir Rehearsal	Sundays, December 6 & 13	4 – 5:30 p.m.
January 2010 Newsletter Articles Due	Monday, December 7	Noon
Ordination & Installation of Elders/Deacons/Trustee	Sunday, December 13	10 a.m. worship service
Youth Fundraiser Luncheon	Sunday, December 13	11:15 a.m.
Catered Advent Dinner	Thursday, December 17	6 p.m.
Christmas Cantata at Peterman Auditorium	Sunday, December 20	4 p.m.
Christmas Eve Services	Thursday, December 24	5, 7, & 9 p.m.
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25	Office Closed

### 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  
 ELK RAPIDS, MI 49629

Non-Profit STD Rate  
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Permit No. 52

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER ITEM DEADLINE – November 8, 2009

Website – [www.erfpc.org](http://www.erfpc.org)  
 Church Email - [info@erfpc.org](mailto:info@erfpc.org)

*Editor's Note:*

*Pastor Hal was interested in the background of the Holy Spirit Candle, lit during services. He was fascinated to hear its marvelous story when talking with Pastor Dan. This is the story.*

## **HOLY SPIRIT CANDLE**

**Pastor Emeritus  
The Rev. Daniel K. Herlein**

When I came to FPC on March 1, 1991, I brought with me the Holy Spirit Candle which I used when I was pastoring the Williamsburg United Methodist Church. The natural and understandable question was raised by some as to whether I was bringing United Methodist traditions into the Presbyterian Church, which, of course, I was not.

And so, as I had discovered many years before, the Children's Sermon is a great time to share foundational Christian doctrines, one of which is that of the Holy Spirit. So when the kids came forward, I brought the candle from the window sill to the steps of the chancel and asked one of the kids to hold it. The kids crowded around the candle.

I asked them if the flame was still and motionless, OR if it was moving in many different directions. They responded by jumping around like the flame. Then I asked them if the flame was cold or hot. They responded, of course, enthusiastically.... HOT! I asked them what color the flame was when they looked through the glass, to which they responded appropriately.... RED!

Then I talked to them about....

(1) How the Holy Spirit is God very active and moving in our lives just like the flame is active and moving;

(2) How the Holy Spirit of God has the power to motivate us and change us, just like the hot flame can do;

(3) How the color of the flame is red which reminds us of the blood of Christ by which our sins are paid for and forgiven.

This, of course, was presented in words and ways the kids could understand.

That Sunday I printed several passages of Scripture for the adults to read to assist them in

considering the meaning of the Holy Spirit candle which transcends denominational differences.

For the remaining 18 years of my ministry at FPC, the Holy Spirit candle was never an issue. In fact, I received comments if the Holy Spirit was not lit for a service.

Here are some of the Scriptures I printed. Look for examples of POWER, ACTION, and CHANGED LIVES through the living action of the Holy Spirit symbolized in the Holy Spirit Candle.

Acts 1:8- But you will receive POWER when the HOLY SPIRIT comes on you;

Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a SOUND LIKE THE BLOWING OF A VIOLENT WIND came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be TONGUES OF FIRE that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 4:31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting WAS SHAKEN. And they were all filled WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND spoke the word of God boldly.

Acts 7:55-56 But Stephen, full of the HOLY SPIRIT, looked up to heaven and SAW THE GLORY OF GOD, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

Acts 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own

Hebrews 9:14 How much more, then, will the BLOOD of Christ, who through the ETERNAL

SPIRIT, offered himself unblemished to God,  
CLEANSE OUR CONSCIENCES from acts that lead

to death, so that we may SERVE THE LIVING  
GOD!

## NOVEMBER 2009 CURRENTS

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

11/02 Caroline Ducharme, George Riddell  
11/03 Nathan Atkinson, Bonnie Fisher  
Eileen Hedin, Paul Patchen  
11/04 Gerald Corey, Robin Jupin  
11/06 Christy Bingham, Fran Butler,  
Jana Gillstrom, Bill Letsche  
11/07 Liz Houskamp, Bud Weede  
11/08 William Telford  
11/10 James Ducharme, Sarah Miller  
11/11 Judy Chaisson, Connie Claar  
Larry Munsey, Donna Piper  
Douglas White  
11/12 Donald Davids  
11/13 James Dowd  
11/14 Dianne Hall, Karen Sloey, Joyce Smith  
Jeanne Townsend  
11/15 Moon Price  
11/16 Matt Clarkston, Kelly O=Shaughnessey  
11/17 Morgan Weir, Harry Widman  
11/18 George Landon, Debra McKeon  
Bill Shirley  
11/19 Loyal Cobb, Nicholas Richardson  
Margaret VanDenBerge  
11/20 Caroline Cutting  
11/21 Jay Hickey, John Werner  
Michael White  
11/23 Dale Wagner  
11/24 Marie Doezema  
11/25 John West, Jr., Kawai West  
11/26 Shirley Goddard, Johnathon Jelinek  
Matt Mandeville, Lauren Peterson  
11/27 Nanea Mamala-Martin  
11/28 Larry Flowers  
11/29 Duane Kunding, Deborah Orschel  
11/30 Pamela Shuler

### FLOWERS

11/01 Sanford  
11/08  
11/15  
11/22 Simmons  
11/29 Advent

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

11/01 Louis and Nancy Sanford  
11/04 Jim and Carol Goetz  
11/07 Cal and Robin Osterhaven  
11/08 Jonathan and Denise Heeke  
11/16 Bill and Sharon Shirley  
11/18 Les and Joanne Teague  
11/24 Glen and Joyce Simmons  
11/27 Ron and Micky Kuite  
James and Phyllis May  
11/29 Patrick and Myrta Keelan  
11/30 John and Sheryl Boucher

### WEDDINGS

10/03/09 Kristopher Sands & Michelle Anderson  
10/17/09 Jeremy Chisholm & Emily Brolick

### IN MEMORIAM

#### **Died Funeral/Memorial/Graveside Service**

9/25 9/30 Marvella Strobeck  
9/26 10/2 Richard Winters  
9/29 Duane Wamsley

### PRAYER SUPPORT

**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SHUT-IN FRIENDS:**  
Edie Crider, Louise Engstrom, Helen Gibbs, Elinor Herrmann, Doris Harrison, Earl Morrison, Vern Oxender, Cecil & Irene Smith.

**TO START THE PRAYER LINE - PLEASE CALL**  
Deacon Mark Haskell - 599-2946

