

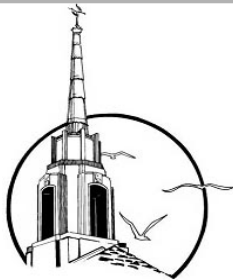
# PRESBYTERIAN TIDINGS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN

VOLUME 57

ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 2009



## *First Presbyterian Church*

Grand Haven, Michigan

Rev. Tom Cook, Pastor Head of Staff  
Rev. Rick Campbell, Interim Associate Pastor

*Traditional Service: 9:00 am*

*The Gathering (Contemporary) Service 10:30 am*

### **Upcoming Events**

- Sept. 13** Blessing of the Backpacks  
both services  
Teacher/Leader Commissioning &  
Training  
Fall Sunday School begins
- Sept. 17** Teacher/Leader Training
- Sept. 27** 10:30 a.m. - 3rd Grade Communion  
Training
- Oct. 4** World Communion Sunday –  
Communion
- Oct. 11** Bibles presented to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
children  
Bible Training
- Nov. 22** 2 - 4:00 p.m. Advent Craft Fair
- Nov. 29** Thanksgiving Break  
No Sunday classes for 5&K–5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Dec. 6** Children's Christmas Program
- Dec. 27** Christmas Break  
No Sunday classes for 5&K–5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **KID'S CORNER**



#### **JOIN OUR TEAM!**

We need many volunteers to lead classes and events to support our programs for children. Teams of three to four people lead Sunday classes for children two years old thru Kindergarten. Leaders and shepherds for 1st thru 4th grades teach four times a year for 3-4 week rotation sessions. Please contact Winnie for your preference of ways to serve and/or for more information. 842-6760 Ext. 14

#### **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

##### **Sunday, September 13th**

We will have the blessing of the backpacks on September 13<sup>th</sup> at both worship times in the sanctuary. Please pray for the safety and education of God's children and their leaders at church and in school this year.

#### **Back to School Supplies Needed**

Children in our area are in need of backpacks and school supplies. Some items in need are:

- 5 section Spiral notebook – college ruled
- Highlighters
- Packages of lined paper—college and wide ruled
- Markers
- Pencils – No. 2
- Spiral notebook – wide ruled
- Fat pencils
- Pocket folders -plain
- Colored pencils
- Pocket folders with fasteners
- Pencil sharpeners
- Scissors
- Pencil pouches – 3 ring binder
- Glue sticks
- Erasers – large and small

Donations may be dropped off at church.

<b>IN OUR CHURCH AND IN OUR COMMUNITY</b>
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**Congratulations!:**

Vicky Frantz on the birth of her great-grandson, Owen Wayne Chittenden on August 11, 2009 in Davenport, IA. Parents are Jessie & Jarod Chittenden.

**Prayer Concerns:** Dan VanderBroek, Bill Roper, Catherine Stephenson, Frank Groat, Nancy Braak and Esther Merwin

Continuing Prayers: Cathleen Pranger and Mary Vivian

**Our Sympathy to:** Mary Lou & David Matzen on the death of Mary Lou's mother, Izzeta Witherell. Mary Lou and David are summer visitors.

Eric and Maryanne Beery Snyder, Meggie and Clara on the death of Maryanne's grandfather, John L. Beery.

Andrew and Stacie LeFurge on the recent death of Andrew's father, Harold Wm. LeFurge, Jr. of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Hittie & Bud Dawe on the August 15th death of Hittie's sister, Lorraine Bevis.

Jack & Dee Mastenbrook and Ruth Mastenbrook on the death of Jack's brother and Dee and Ruth's brother-in-law, Warren Mastenbrook.

Jack Jansma and family on the August 5, 2009, death of his grandson, Colin Jansma, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Sandy and Bob VerDuin on the death of Sandy's brother, Dennis Mishler.

**Military:**

Brad Roberts and Seth Roberts, nephews of Mike and Marcia D'Oyly; Jake Dickerson, son of Mike and Marcia D'Oyly; Leslie VanLangevelde, Les and Jo Ennega's granddaughter; Nicholas Wabeke, nephew of Cheryl Wabeke; Matthew Schoonveld, grandson of Verna Schoonveld; Phillip Lewis, nephew of Randy and Betty Jo Enell; Christina Heath, daughter of Marianne and Frank Lipcei; Alonzo Warner, son of Patty and Gene Warner and their son-in-law, Tim Pham; Adam Gleason, son of Carol and Joe Eveland; Andrew Lee; Jonathon Smith, grandson of Esther Smith; Jonah Dornbos

**Thank You:**

Jack Jansma wishes to thank everyone for the wonderful expressions of care, love, and condolences to him and his family on the death of his grandson, Colin. Special thanks to his "band of brothers" i.e. men's Monday night group, and pastor Tom. "These outpourings bring tears of emotion and humble gratitude for the wonderful Christian church family with which I am privileged and blessed to have at First Presbyterian Church."

Thank you to our church family for the many cards of support and sympathy following the death of my grandfather. He lived a full and happy 98 years in faith and we appreciate your kindness as we celebrate his life! - Mary Ann Beery and Eric Snyder

The People Center—Thank you for the recent monetary donation. We consider it an honor to have been the recipient of this charitable gift. Please know that we will use this donation to help those in need. Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

**Refugee Resettlement Update:**

Nine Bhutanese refugee families have now settled in Grand Haven with eight local churches serving as sponsors. Our family, the Mishras, were the first to arrive in July 2008. They are doing so well! Our role in their lives at this point is more about friendship, ESL tutoring, and a little guidance when questions or situations arise. Om is about to begin his Junior year at GHHS. Madhav is enrolled for the fall term at MCC. Kunta and Chandra continue to work towards passing the GED tests. Mana and Tila receive ESL tutoring several times a week. If you are interested in being involved ESL or GED tutors are always welcome, as are people to do practice driving with Kunta who will take her driving test in October. The Refugee Resettlement Committee is continually grateful to our generous congregation for all the help that has been extended to this family as they begin a new life in their new homeland.

**Tidings article deadline for October 2009 issue: Friday, September 18, 2009**

Submittals, suggestions or comments: [sbryant@fpgh.org](mailto:sbryant@fpgh.org) or [firstpres@fpgh.org](mailto:firstpres@fpgh.org)

*FPC editorial staff reserves the right to accept or decline, edit for length and content all submitted material.*



## BULLETIN BOARD

### Tri-Cities HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RAFFLE Tickets on Sale Now

Support Habitat for Humanity area projects. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Drawing to be held September 17. Purchase tickets Sunday morning.

*1st Prize:* Playhouse

*2nd Prize:* Granite Vanity Top & Coffee Table

*3rd Prize:* One night stay at GH Best Western plus Gilmore Collection \$100 gift card

### REMINDER! - First Sunday Food Collection Sunday, September 6

Bring in canned goods or other non-perishable food items. The People Center will be the recipient of the September collection.

### PRESBYTERIANS IN THE NEWS

We are looking for a few newspaper readers to cut out and deliver clippings containing news on our members and friends. Please consider doing your "little part" to make FPC a great caring church.

Call the church office, 842-6760

### FPC NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Looking member names to be nominated for upcoming open positions of: Elders, Deacons and four members of the congregation to sit on the Nominating Committee.

Contact either co-chairs:

Pam Blake, 616-402-1121

Don Anderson, 616-842-8590

### AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY 2009

#### RELAY FOR LIFE - September 11 & 12

Sign up in The Gathering Area during the month of August. Jill Osborne is the FPC Team Captain and she encourages everyone to get involved. There are many ways to participate. Stop by our table in the lounge for more information.



## FROM THE DESK OF TOM COOK

**L**. Gregory Jones, Dean of Duke Divinity School, was asked to teach a series of adult classes on sexuality issues within the United Methodist Church. He refused. He proposed a topic on "Cultivating a Community of Discernment." They agreed on the topic.

The first session studied a curious passage in Ephesians (4:25-51), with attention to a reflection by Stephen Fowl, an author from Loyola College, in "How to Make Stealing Possible." Fowl noticed that in the midst of a passage which seems to focus on how people talk with one another, there is an injunction that "*those who are stealing should give up stealing.*" Fowl paid attention to this verse, wondering what it means and why it is in this particular place in scripture.

In Fowl's view, the key is found in the passage's framing reference: "*We are members one to another.*" When people hold things in common, which the early church did, the risk of stealing becomes greater. Someone could be tempted to take advantage of the others and not carry their share of the load. In fact, the verse includes an injunction that those who give up stealing should "*labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy.*" In Fowl's view, we make stealing "possible" by cultivating a common life in which we truly depend on one another. There is increased risk, but also the heightened possibility for holy living in a community of common good.

L. Gregory Jones asked his class if that was so in today's church. Is there a heightened possibility of holy living

and heightened risk, when all contribute to sustaining the common good? Their discussion went a long time in favor of a "yes" answer. Then Jones made a proposal: all members of the class should bring their checkbooks to class the following week so that they could compare what they are actually doing with their resources. You can imagine that his suggestion went over like a lead balloon!

In our day and culture we think that economic matters are private. We don't believe we should be expected to reveal how much we earn, much less how we spend it. Curiously, we are more willing to divulge information about our sexual attitudes and behaviors

(Continued on page 4)

## FROM THE DESK OF TOM COOK

(Continued from page 3)

than our stewardship. This is certainly true in our television culture of exposure, where talk shows are filled with people disclosing bizarre sexual behavior, but where standards of compensation and stewardship are rarely subjected to examination.

The same is true in the church. We are much more willing to force discussion on issues of sexuality than we are on stewardship. This is one of the great ironies of mainline denominations that wears me out as a minister. Aside from the obligatory "stewardship sermon" each preacher is expected to preach in September or October, talk of money and the responsibility of stewardship is more taboo than sex.

Yet ironically, Christians are at least dimly aware that the Bible... and Jesus in particular... seems far more interested in money than sex. Jesus goes so far as to say, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Which is another way of saying that your checkbook ledger tells the story of your faith. In another story, the rich young ruler walks away sad, because he had many possessions to which he was more attached than he was to God.

Are we afraid to open our checkbooks because we know that they reveal far more than how we spend money? That they indeed reveal our hearts, our conflicted desires, the god(s) whom we really worship?

Back to Jones' Sunday School class: an interesting observation was made by a member who noted that we find it relatively easy to talk about sexuality... in particular, such issues as adultery and homosexuality... because most folks in churches can do so without fear of self-exposure, or that the discussion will really change their lives. Yet, she observed, it is very difficult to talk about personal economic matters because the discussion would likely implicate us all in a call to repentance.

This conclusion was insightful. Maybe our lives would be deeper and richer if we began to talk with one another about matters with which all of us need to struggle, whether that struggle be with abundance or crippling poverty. For those of us who would have to be judged among the world's wealthy, money matters call us to re-examine and change our lives. After all, Jesus was interested in our money only because he was interested in our hearts.

In His service,



## BULLETIN BOARD

### PLEASE HELP WELCOME OUR NEW GATHERING WORSHIP LEADER, JIM BEEZLEY

Jim is a graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in education and taught briefly in the West Ottawa school district. Jim is currently a student at Western Theological Seminary in the distance learning program. Most recently he has served as the Youth Director and as Worship Leader at New Era Reformed Church in New Era, MI. His career objectives are to:

- Lead in the practice and development of authentic corporate worship.
- Draw others into an awe-filled relationship with Jesus Christ through the art of worship.
- Equip and inspire youth in worship ministry.
- Partner with a staff and church dedicated to loving God and loving others.

Jim is married to Angela who is a Physician's Assistant at Lake Shore Medical in Whitehall. In May, Jim and Angie became parents to their first born, Jackson. Please give Jim and Angie a warm welcome into the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

### New Member Classes:

**Tuesdays, September 15, 22, 29 from 6 - 8 p.m.**

A light supper will be served and nursery care will be available. You will learn what it means to be a Presbyterian and about opportunities to serve in this community of faith. If you are interested, please call 842-6760, ext. 12 and let us know.



**BULLETIN BOARD**

save the date...

**CONSECRATION SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 18TH**

**Looking Forward to Consecration Sunday**

What a tremendous year it has been for First Presbyterian Church! Our many ministries continue due to your prayerful gifts offered up at last year's Consecration Sunday. We are maintaining a tradition that looks toward Consecration Sunday as an event that celebrates not only what has been accomplished in the past twelve months, but also anticipates those things yet to be accomplished. Your Session and Deacons have been working diligently and wisely to prepare for you a budget that reflects the visions of our church's many ministries. You will have to agree that with the right nourishment, the future is bright.

This year's celebration will begin in the month of September and conclude with Consecration Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. In the weeks leading up to Consecration Sunday, we hope you will prayerfully consider how you might build on the foundation that is being laid at our church. We worship together, we study together, we socialize together and we outreach together. Each one of us is supported by the church community and is called to support it in our own individual way.

October 18<sup>th</sup> will be a great day of celebration! Our wonderful ordained staff, support staff and your stewardship committee members will lead us through this process. At the Consecration Sunday services you will be given the opportunity of acting on your prayerful consideration by filling out the 2010 "Estimate of Giving" pledge card. Each worship service will be followed by a time of fellowship. We will celebrate our commitments to the future of God's work through our church. Additional information will be printed in the bulletins, as well as communicated to you via announcements from the pulpit.

**Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the October 18<sup>th</sup> Consecration Sunday and experience the opportunity of Responding to God's Blessings.**

Faithfully,

Your Stewardship Committee:

Lisa Luckey

Dave Folkert

Kelli Jullie

Cal Bruhn

Staci LeFurge

Ex-Officio Tom Cook

Andy Brown

Ed Hanenburg



## BULLETIN BOARD

### “HANDS TO SERVE” EXPANDS THIS YEAR: Fall 2009 and Spring 2010!



*Serve one another in love.*  
Galatians 5:13

Because of the huge success of the 2007 and 2008 “Hands to Serve” weekends, the Missions Committee has decided to expand this project by offering **TWO uniquely different**

**“Hands to Serve” events this year – one in the fall and one in the spring!**

The **“Hands Helping Others”** event coming this fall is the new addition to our mission outreach in which we will offer **assistance to elderly or homebound individuals in our congregation who are no longer able to do specific projects around their homes.** Teams will be formed to provide yard clean-up, home maintenance or winterization jobs such as caulking and putting in storm windows.

If **YOU or SOMEONE YOU KNOW** would like to apply for **assistance** from the “Hands Helping Others” teams – **OR** – if you would like to **serve as a project leader, work on one of the home teams or provide snacks for the teams,** please call Elder Donna Kober (886-1366), Karin Fowler (296-1169) or Becky Yonan at the church office (842-6760 Ext. 25).

Watch the bulletin for more information regarding important dates for this exciting event!

*Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.*  
1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:10

## Adult Education

### Small Groups Forming Now!

See sign-up sheets in the lounge or pick up a brochure and join one or more of these groups!

## OUR MISSION

**As members of First Presbyterian Church we will:**

- ◆ Provide relevant and engaging worship that nurtures a growing community of faith.
- ◆ Grow our faith by promoting quality educational opportunities to all.
- ◆ Affect people’s lives by creating a culture of acceptance, where differences are valued, and connections to one another are fostered in a Christ-centered church.
- ◆ Remain a beacon in our community by building on our rich missional heritage as a church that serves locally, regionally and globally.

## OUR VISION

We are called to celebrate God’s grace as a Christ-centered community of acceptance, growing in faith and living as Christ’s hands to serve.

## Do You Like to Cook?

The Presbyterian Women are looking for a few good cooks who can help provide meals for members who are ill or who have had babies.

If you are interested, please call Pat Elenbaas at 846-3087 or contact her by e-mail at [ebaas3@yahoo.com](mailto:ebaas3@yahoo.com)



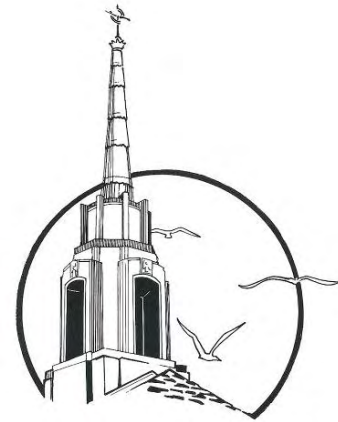


## BULLETIN BOARD

### TOP TEN REASONS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

1. Use your time in meaningful ways
2. Meet new people and make new friends
3. Give direction to the future of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
4. Learn marketable skills, gain valuable experiences and share these with others
5. Transfer your Christian belief into action
6. Discover new outlets for creative expression and feel a sense of accomplishment
7. Gain a sense of making a contribution to the lives of others
8. Enjoy the fellowship and fun of working with others for a common purpose
9. Grow and develop personally as a Christian woman and disciple of Christ
10. Be challenged by Christ's call to be servant leaders

If you are a woman member of First Presbyterian Church you are a member of Presbyterian Women. Circles will start meeting for fellowship and Bible Study in September. Please call Dorothy Miller at 842-0677 to get more information about our five different Circles and meeting times.



508 Franklin Avenue  
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417

Phone: 616-842-6760

Fax: 616-842-5979

E-mail: [firstpres@fpg.org](mailto:firstpres@fpg.org)

Web site: [www.fpg.org](http://www.fpg.org)

### Opportunity Fair

**Sunday, September 20**

Come and enjoy coffee, homemade baked goods and fellowship.

Explore all of the wonderful opportunities here at First Presbyterian Church. Our church leadership, committee members and staff will be available to answer questions and give you information on the wonderful opportunities to become more involved at FPC.

*Let Us Serve Together!*

Where  do you fit in?

JOYFUL NOISE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO THEIR ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE!

**Tuesday, September 15**

**6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Come tour our center and meet our staff. There will be refreshments, a book fair, and early childhood information and photos will be out for you to enjoy!



*First Presbyterian  
Staff Directory*

Rob Anderson	Technical Coordinator		
David Anys	Church Host		
Maryanne Beery	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts	20	<a href="mailto:mbeery@fpgh.org">mbeery@fpgh.org</a>
Jim Beezley	Gathering Band Director	23	<a href="mailto:jbeezley@fpgh.org">jbeezley@fpgh.org</a>
Sally Bryant	Communications Coordinator	13	<a href="mailto:sbryant@fpgh.org">sbryant@fpgh.org</a>
Rick Campbell	Interim Associate Pastor	17	<a href="mailto:rcampbell@fpgh.org">rcampbell@fpgh.org</a>
Tom Cook	Pastor, Head of Staff	16	<a href="mailto:tomcook@fpgh.org">tomcook@fpgh.org</a>
Dan Coulier	Maintenance Director	24	<a href="mailto:dancoulier@fpgh.org">dancoulier@fpgh.org</a>
Mike D'Oyly	Organist	27	<a href="mailto:mdoyly@fpgh.org">mdoyly@fpgh.org</a>
Matt Fisher	Dir. of Student Ministries	19	<a href="mailto:mfisher@fpgh.org">mfisher@fpgh.org</a>
Gail Goldberg	Custodian		
Kelli Jullie	Church Administrator	22	<a href="mailto:kjullie@fpgh.org">kjullie@fpgh.org</a>
Winnie McNergney	Children's Ministry Dir.	14	<a href="mailto:wmcnergney@fpgh.org">wmcnergney@fpgh.org</a>
Karen Nienhouse	Membership Services	12	<a href="mailto:knienhouse@fpgh.org">knienhouse@fpgh.org</a>
Tina Ramones	Assist. to Administrator	10	<a href="mailto:cramones@fpgh.org">cramones@fpgh.org</a>
Sally Segers	Joyful Noise Director	26	<a href="mailto:ssegers@fpgh.org">ssegers@fpgh.org</a>
Becky Yonan	Volunteer Ministries Coord.	25	<a href="mailto:byonan@fpgh.org">byonan@fpgh.org</a>
Joyful Noise	Day Care & Preschool	26	

**Church Office: 616-842-6760**

**Joyful Noise: 616-847-6600**