

PRESBYTERIAN TIDINGS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN

VOLUME 57

ISSUE 7

AUGUST 2009

MESSAGE FROM WINNIE,

Director of Children's Ministries

Planning has begun for educational and organizational opportunities in our church starting in September. There are new and some on-going Bible studies, Sunday classes, mission focus, and fellowship events such as the Church Picnic at Pottawattomie Park on August 30th.

As a staff member of First Church, I am grateful for the support of Children's Ministries by the people of this church. It is wonderful to know that vision and change are encouraged and that stretching and joy can be experienced when looking forward and planning effective classes and events. Thank you.

In our recently created *Our Mission* statement I looked at its meaning and how it should be applied to the children of our church through educational classes, fellowship, and activities. Following is a sketch of some of the focus of Children's Ministries in carrying out the requirement and privilege of teaching children so that they have a relationship with Jesus, feel a part of our church family and enthusiastically want to contribute to mission both near and far.

Our Mission

- ◆ Provide relevant and engaging worship that nurtures a growing community of faith

God is first in our lives and we worship him. Children are welcome in our worship and through baptism are promised by our family of faith to be supported on their faith journey. The children begin their Sunday experience in worship including a message

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KID'S CORNER. . .



Mark Your Calendar

CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, August 30th

Join us at Pottawattomie Park
worship – potluck – inflatable games – clown

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, September 13th

We will have the blessing of the backpacks on September 13th 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.

OTHER DATES. . .

- 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 3rd Grade children
- Bible Training
- Nov. 22** 2 - 4:00 p.m. Advent Craft Fair
- Nov. 29** Thanksgiving Break
No Sunday classes for 5&K – 5th Grade
- Dec. 6** Children's Christmas Program
- Dec. 27** Christmas Break
No Sunday classes for 5&K – 5th Grade

IN OUR CHURCH AND IN OUR COMMUNITY

Congratulations!: Randy and Faith Wood and big brother, Jesten, on the July 3, 2009 birth of Noelle Suzanne Wood. Great-great-grandmother is Aneta Houts.

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

Continuing Prayers: Cathleen Pranger and Mary Vivian

Memorial Service:

A memorial service for Penny Sherwood will be held here at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, August 8 at 11:00 a.m.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for:
the healing of Paula Parker.

Thank You: We want to thank our church family for all of the hugs, the cards, the prayers, encouragement, and support (spiritual, emotional and financial) that we received during Doug's long battle with his illnesses. The memorial service was truly a testimony to the love and understanding of our entire church family. Pastor Tom did a wonderful job in coordinating the service and a big thank you to all who donated refreshments and helped with the reception. A special thank you to the Geneva Choir for the beautiful music that they provided -- those were two of Doug's favorite songs and in fact he had one of them memorized! Jan, Reuben and Becky Burton

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, phone calls and visits while Bud was recovering in cardiac rehab for a recent heart attack. It was all greatly appreciated.
Bud and Arlene Star

Earl and Hazel Kragt wish to thank all who sent cards and good wishes for their 60th wedding anniversary.

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 Lipcsei; 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; Lidale Czerepak, great-niece of Rick and Donna vandenBerg; Jonah Dornbos

Refugee Resettlement Update:

The Mishra family was well celebrated as they marked their one-year anniversary in this country! For those who attended the worship celebration on July 12 and enjoyed the Nepali tea and donuts you should know those were entirely a gift from the family. They would not accept reimbursement for the groceries they purchased for that morning.

After one year refugees are eligible to apply for Permanent Resident status so we are now working with the Mishras to complete that extensive application. After five years they are eligible to apply for United States citizenship. Madhav has completed the summer term at MCC getting A's and B's in his first four college level classes. He has received funding for the 2009/2010 school year and is so anxious to begin moving forward toward his dream of a medical related career. He is actively looking for a second part-time job with weekend hours. Kunta continues to work on learning to drive. She has her permit and is anxious for any opportunity to do practice driving. If you are willing to help with this please call Sally Dunn (850-0057).

PARA, the refugee sponsoring agency our church partners with, is sponsoring a Bhutanese Cultural event on Thursday, Aug. 13 at 7pm in the Lounge of FPC. Anyone interested in learning more about the culture the nine Bhutanese families now living in Grand Haven come from is welcome to attend.

Gratitude continues to be extended to the following community employers who offered jobs to the Mishras allowing them to become financially sustainable within just a few months: Plantenga's Cleaners, Rodeway Inn, Harbor House Inn, Wal-Mart, D&W, Grand Haven Tribune, City of Grand Haven, Veit's Landing and Crossroads Blueberry Farm owned Dave and Kelley Reenders.

Tidings article deadline for September 2009 issue: Monday, August 17, 2009

Submittals, suggestions or comments: cramones@fpg.org or firstpres@fpg.org

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

IN OUR CHURCH AND IN OUR COMMUNITY

FPC RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, August 14, 1 - 7 pm

Goal is 60 pints. Remember you can give blood every 56 days. Sign-up table in the lounge and walk-in donors are always welcome. Contact Diane Jones, 231-780-0273 with questions or to schedule an appointment.

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 in the Gathering Area this 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, August 2

Bring in a canned goods or other non-perishable food items. Love INC will be the recipient of the August collection.

Thank you - The Grand Haven Salvation Army (*The GH Salvation Army was receipt of June's food collection*) The food items you have collected have gone to help households you may never see, feed families you may never meet and give hope to many children you may never have the pleasure to know!

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

VERY SPECIAL Thank-you to all the people who sent good wishes during my recuperation and to Tom and Rick for their calls. There were many acts of kindness shown and were greatly appreciated.

-Martha Anderson

HELP WANTED - with Elder Care

Doug Doering needs help to care for his 92 year-old mother. This a paid position with flexible hours. Call Doug, 616-628-7916.

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.



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.

save the date...

CONSECRATION SUNDAY OCTOBER 18TH

...sometimes we need to be reminded

Getting All the Good Out of Life's Blessings

by Erma Bombeck

Someone asked me the other day if I had my life to live over again would I change anything. My answer was no, but then I thought about it and changed my mind.

- If I had my life to live over again I would have waxed less and listened more.
- Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy and complaining about the shadow over my feet, I'd have cherished every minute of it and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was to be my only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.
- I would NEVER have insisted the car window be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.
- I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained and the sofa faded.
- I would have eaten popcorn in the "good" living room and worried less about the dirt when you lit the fireplace.
- I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.
- I would have burnt the pink candle sculptured like a rose before it melted while being stored in the attic.
- I would have sat cross-legged on the lawn with my children and never worried about grass stains.
- I would have cried and laughed less while watching television... and more while watching real life.
- I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband (or wife) which I took for granted.
- I would have eaten less cottage cheese and more ice cream.
- I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for a day.
- I would never have bought ANYTHING just because it was practical – wouldn't show the soil – was guaranteed to last a lifetime.
- When my child kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later, now, go get washed up for dinner."
- There would have been more I love yous... more I'm sorrys... more I'm listenings... but mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute of it... look at it and really see it... try it on... live it... exhaust it... and never give that minute back until there was nothing left of it."



BULLETIN BOARD

It's Time

As the Adult Education Committee prayerfully contemplates offerings for all of us to grow our faith have you ever wondered what it means to grow your faith? Have you ever read the tidings or the bulletin and said to yourself boy that class or study really sounds interesting but I don't have time, it might be God tapping you on the shoulder saying it's time. Have you ever heard the buzz from someone in church about what a wonderful job Hazel Kragt does in teaching the Revelation class and you think to yourself I've always wanted to know more about that part of the bible but, I don't know enough to participate, it might be God tapping you on the shoulder saying it's time. Are you a busy mom whose too busy to take time to connect with other mom's who are as tired as you but could benefit from the fellowship that comes with knowing you aren't alone, it might be God tapping you on the shoulder saying make time. Are you a woman who is somewhere in the middle making transitions in your life and wondering how does faith play into this time, it might be God tapping you on the shoulder saying I have a delightful gift to give you and you have a gift to give others through the fellowship that comes with being with woman that are just like you. As you consider whether this is for you consider the men's small group or the men's breakfast group the journey and friendships that have developed are filled with the richness that comes when what binds you is the love of the Lord. Look for the Adult Education brochure, listen to that still small voice and tap on the shoulder to grow your faith in new ways.

SMALL GROUPS

- **Women's Small Group**
Regular time of sharing, study and prayer
Thursdays, 9:30 - 11 a.m.
- **Men's Fellowship**
Regular time of sharing, study and prayer
Monday, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
- **Presbyterian Women Circles**
Meet monthly for fellowship, study and mission in a small group setting Fall meetings begin in September
Various Times - Day & Evening
- **Men's Bible Study**
Study and discussion of the Bible. All men are welcome (no reservations necessary)
3rd Wednesday of each month
Time: 8 - 9 a.m.
Location: Vic's Restaurant, SL
- **Disciple I, II, III Groups**
- **Study in the Book of Revelation**
14 week course taught by Hazel Kragt
Tuesdays, 7- 9 p.m.
- **Busy Mom's Group**
12 weeks
Friday 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon
- **Mom's Group**
more details TBA
- **"The Shack"** Led by Tom Cook
Dates and Times TBA

**More details and sign-up
in August**


 BULLETIN BOARD


Hands to Serve

**“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 **FALL** “Hands to Serve” event in Oct. or early Nov. 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.

The **SPRING** “Hands to Serve” Weekend in mid- to late **April 2010** will be modeled on the 2007 and 2008 “Hands to Serve” weekends, **providing many helping hands to a wide variety of community needs.**

Elder Donna Kober, a member of the Missions Committee, has accepted the leadership of the new “Hands to Serve” Action Team that will coordinate these two exciting events.

For the upcoming fall event, Donna will be working closely with members of the “Hands to Serve” Action Team and the Deacons who regularly visit our homebound members and can assist in identifying those members who could use a helping hand around their homes.

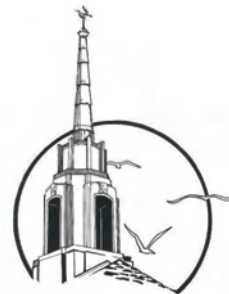
If **YOU or SOMEONE YOU KNOW** would like to apply for assistance from the “Fall Hands to Serve” teams – **OR** – if you would like to **serve as a project leader, work on one of the home teams or provide snacks for the teams,** please call Elder Donna Kober (886-1366), Deacon Michelle Potter (846-1023) Karin Fowler (296-1169) or Kelli Jullie at the church office (842-6760 Ext. 22).

Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.
1st Peter 4:10

Back to School Supplies Needed

Children in our area are in need of backpacks and school supplies. Donations may be dropped off at church. Some items in need are:

- 5 section Spiral notebook – college
- Highlighters
- Packages of lined paper
– college ruled
- Markers
- Packages of lined paper
– wide ruled
- 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



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Phone: 616-842-6760

Fax: 616-842-5979

E-mail: firstpres@fpgh.org

Web site: www.fpgh.org

MESSAGE FROM WINNIE, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

(Continued from page 1)

to or from the children. Sunday classes are offered during both worship times. In their rotation classes they are also taught what each part of the worship service means and they learn the Lord's Prayer. When children are in 3rd Grade they are given bibles and are offered concentrated Bible and Communion Training.

◆ **Grow our faith by promoting quality educational opportunities to all**

Our children start their learning journey in the nursery in a welcoming and loving atmosphere through stories and response activities. Their journey continues in classes for 2 year-olds through children in 5th grade. Materials are offered in different learning styles so that all children get the meaning of the story and objective. They are given information to take home including the class objective, scripture references for Bible stories and memory verses, prayers, and family activities to enjoy with parents.

◆ **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**

The people of this church do an outstanding job of making children feel welcome and a part of the church family. The children feel a sense of belonging with fellowship in the Lounge after worship and classes (the homemade cookies are pretty good too), other intergenerational activities such as the Church Picnic, Mission, and Advent Wreath & Craft Fair. Their friends are invited to join in all worship, classes, and events including the Easter Egg Hunt, Vacation Bible School and 4th & 5th grade Fellowship.

◆ **Remain a beacon in our community by building on our rich mission heritage as a church that serves locally, regionally and globally**

Beginning in the 2 & 3 year-old Class the children are given offering envelopes to teach them to give and share, and when they are older to tithe. Mission is a major focus throughout almost all of our programs and events. Food and other items collected during Vacation Bible School are given to

each of our church's local missions and the Re-Member Indian mission. Cards and craft items are created and shared with children in the Angel Tree program and sent to the elderly. Hands to Serve is a wonderful program for children and their families to join other church members in local mission. Children are taught how each of the four Presbyterian special offerings are shared with those in need.

This has been a brief look at what we are doing for and with the children of our church. Another very important part of this program is who is leading the children. We are blessed to have loving and giving leaders of our classes. Some of them started helping in the nursery or with a class when they were in older elementary and middle school and then gradually when in senior high school became class leaders themselves. We have moms and dads doing a great job of having fun with the children as they learn. There are also wonderful people who provide financial support anonymously.

All of our educational opportunities for adults, youth and children are a blessing through the love and gifts given by members of our church family, our pastors and staff. Since none of us can possibly know everything there is in the Bible we are privileged to have the opportunity to learn together. Look for the class listings in this Tidings.

Please keep our children, youth and adult learning in your prayers to continue our faith journey and building our relationship with Christ.

See you in class!



“And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.”

Mark 10:16

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FAMILY PICNIC**



**Sunday, August 30th
Pottawattomie Park
15600 Comstock**

(Just east of Peach Plains School)

**The Gathering Worship 11:00 a.m.*
Potluck Lunch 12:15 p.m.**

Hotdogs & Brats Provided

Bring your....

- Favorite dish to pass
- Table service
- Beverage (water provided)
- Lawn chairs

Games for ALL ages

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

***There will be NO 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service**

- instead join us at Pottawattomie Park-

11:00 a.m. Outdoor Gathering Worship Service

