

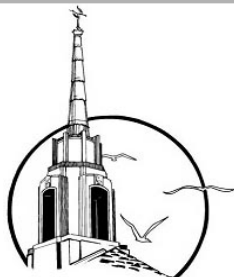
PRESBYTERIAN TIDINGS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN

VOLUME 58

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2010



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

- Jan. 5** *The Shack* study group begins, 7 pm
Jan. 10 Congregational meeting
Jan.13, New Member Classes
20,27
Jan. 22-23 High school ski trip
Feb. 5 Red Cross Blood Drive, 1-7 pm
Feb. 7 Confirmation class begins (12 weeks)
Feb. 16 Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner &
entertainment
Feb. 19-21 Middle school mission trip - SpringHill
Feb. 24 Wednesday night Taize service and
Lenten soup suppers begin
Feb. 26-28 High school mission trip - Chicago
Mar. 18 PW Program

**HAVE A
BLESSED
NEW YEAR!**

FROM THE DESK OF TOM COOK

It takes patience but it's worth it, when it comes to the work of a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) in a Presbyterian Church USA. That's because discerning a call and finding the right match is often like a courtship, as a candidate and church learn to dance together. As Presbyterians we very much believe God calls us according to our gifts. Discerning gifts takes prayer and time and patience and I have seen that in the PNC under Bob Van Dyke's leadership.

I am pleased to announce that the Associate Pastoral Nominating Committee has been blessed by meeting Patricia Locke. They will introduce her to the congregation as their candidate for Associate Pastor on January 10th. Pat will preach at both worship services and a congregational meeting will be called immediately following the 10:30 service to hear the recommendation from the Pastoral Nominating Committee that we extend a call to Pat to serve as our Associate Pastor.

I believe Pat, who is entering the ministry as a second career, is an excellent candidate to serve as our Associate Pastor. Pat is a mother of two adult children and she has been a single mom who was called upon to raise her family after the tragic death of her husband at the age of 36. Pat has been an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton, Illinois, is a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan and this past June graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. Pat is a writer and since graduation she has worked in McCormick's office of communications.

On Saturday evening, from 6:30-8:30 you are invited to meet Pat during an informal reception in the lounge of the church. You will appreciate meeting Pat and find her personable and easy to have a conversation with. I honestly believe you will be delighted in the

(Continued on page 3)

IN OUR CHURCH AND IN OUR COMMUNITY

Prayer Concerns: Nancy Braak, Mary Hendon, and Catherine Stephenson

Continuing Prayers: Cathleen Pranger, Bill Roper and Mary Vivian

Our Sympathy to:

Mary Helen Hoffmeyer on the death of her husband, Ronald Hoffmeyer, on December 12, 2009.

the family of Esther Merwin, who passed away on December 7, 2009.

the family of Dorothy Wessel, who passed away on December 19, 2009.

Thank You:

“...to everyone who sent a card or their condolences to me and my family at the death of my father, Beryl Layton. Your support has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated. We are blessed because of you and your prayers.” - Sue Qualls and family

Mary and Butch Willey would like to thank this congregation for their prayers of support during Butch's recent illness.

“A big ‘thank you’ for the prayers and the cards and the church flowers and the telephone calls from the church family. Especially a thank you to Rev. Rick for his hospital call and the prayer shawl and Tom's calls - all are very helpful and appreciated. I am so thankful for a caring church family.” - Martha Anderson

Thanksgiving Thank-You! Thank you FPC for your response to our 9th year of preparing Thanksgiving food baskets in partnership with Holy Trinity Church in Muskegon. More than 40 families received a basket complete with turkey, chicken or ham. FPC provided a van load of food, two turkeys, and \$170. Please know you touched the lives of some of the neediest people in West Michigan this Thanksgiving.

“...**thank you** for your recent donation of \$1,000 to be used for our food pantry. 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.” - with gratitude, Karen Reenders, Director

THANK YOU! A special thank you to all the crafters, bakers and supporters of the 2009 Craft and Bake Sale. Through your support the Presbyterian Women were able to raise over \$800 - money that will

be used to support PW Missions. We truly appreciate the wonderful variety and all the time and effort that went into making each item. Thank you for supporting this PW holiday tradition!

“We would like to say ‘thank-you’ to everyone who shared our sorrow in the unexpected death of John Jerovsek, husband, father and grandpa. You have been gracious with your words of encouragement, flowers, meals and memorial contributions. For all of this, we are extremely grateful. A special thank-you to Rev. Tom Cook for all of his support and kind words in the past few months and to Jennifer Jerovsek for her amazing voice. We would also like to thank the church staff, especially Maryanne Beery and Jim Beezley for their participation in the memorial service. Everyone was amazing!”

- Grace and Peace...Madge Jerovsek, Matt, Kathy, Taylor, Danielle and Louis Olds

“Thank you to my church family for prayers and cards during my illness. I appreciated the hospital visits by Pastor Tom and Pastor Rick, beautiful flowers, prayer shawl, and meals. The Sunday classes were prepared, set up, and cleaned up each week by Wendy Keefe and Marta McNergney. Many wonderful volunteers came forward to lead classes or to help in other ways. Maryanne directed and presented a beautiful children's cantata with the help of many volunteers. The DeVea family took the huge responsibility of setting up and running the crafts for the Advent Craft Fair.

All of this caring and effort is so appreciated and meant so much to me during my recovery knowing that God's kids were in good hands. God bless.”

- Winnie (McNergney)

“What a joy to be a member of First Presbyterian Church! I thank you all for your prayers and many, many cards. The visits by Tom and Rick and others were very much appreciated as well as my very own prayer shawl in the colors I love.

I made excellent progress with my knee replacement, and infection was averted. After 6 years I am still battling Multiple Myeloma, a bone marrow cancer. There is no cure, but I am being considered for another research study at the University of Michigan Medical Center.

Also, many thanks to the Hands to Serve volunteers who cleaned my long driveway through the woods. My husband always kept it in good shape. He would be so happy. God bless you all,” - Carol Hall

FROM THE DESK OF TOM COOK

PNC's work and excited about her becoming our Associate Pastor.

I am deeply grateful for the patient and thorough work of the PNC. Each member (Dottie Bennink, Barb Butterworth, Lacey Hamilton, Jim Kober, Patti Konarska, Chris Mendels, Dan Qualls, Ruth Suchecki and Bob Van Dyke) deserves our deepest appreciation for their dedication and excellence. We also need to thank Lake Michigan Presbytery and Suzanne Carl who served as the Committee on Ministry's transition counselor. Together they reviewed something like 115 Personal Information Forms, listened to many candidate sermons, made many telephone contacts and interviewed five candidates who all brought excellent credentials and unique characteristics.

Among them all Pat was their first choice and we were hers. Pat's anticipated start date is February 1st and her ordination date will soon be announced.

So plan on meeting her on Saturday evening in the lounge and don't miss worship on January 10th. A congregational meeting will immediately follow the 10:30 worship service to hear from the PNC and act upon Pat's terms of call. Finally, in these winter months, let's all give Pat a warm First Presbyterian Church welcome.

Yours in Christ,



Tom Cook
Senior Pastor



YOUTH NEWS

Upcoming Youth Events:

High School

Crystal Ski Trip Jan. 22-23
Chicago Mission Feb. 26-28

Middle School

SpringHill Winter Retreat Feb 19-21

Contact Matt Fisher to sign up:
mfisher@fpgh.org or 842-6760, ext. 19

Confirmation Classes begin on February 7. This class is a twelve-week commitment and is open to all students who have completed the 8th grade. Classes will meet on Sundays after the Gathering service. Those interested should contact the Student Ministries office by January 31.

POTPOURRI

Home Companion/Assistant Needed - Beginning in April, an elderly lady from our church is looking for someone to live in her home with her free of charge in exchange for rides and being there overnight. The qualified person would have their own two rooms and a private bathroom. Please call the church office at 842-6760 if you are interested.

Presbyterian Pages, our church bookstore, will be open between services and after the Gathering service on Sunday, January 17th. Presbyterian Pages is located in the church lounge. You're invited to stop by and browse the books!

Lost - If you know the whereabouts of a large, white, rose-patterned lace tablecloth with scalloped edges, the Presbyterian Women would love it if it could be returned to the church kitchen! Thank you!

Ushers Needed - We are looking for ushers at the 10:30 service in 2010. The rotation is every 6 weeks. If you are interested, please contact Becky Yonan in the church office at 842-6760.

Tidings article deadline for February 2010 issue: January 18, 2010

Submittals, suggestions or comments: sbryant@fpgh.org or firstpres@fpgh.org

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



*First Presbyterian Church
508 Franklin Street
Grand Haven, MI 49417*

*If you are unable to attend Sunday morning worship:
Tune your radio dial to WGHN-A 1370 or WGHN-FM 92.1
Sunday mornings at 9:05 a.m. to hear the previous week's sermon!
Or, visit our web site: www.fpgh.org*

GOOD \$ENSE PROGRAM – 2010

Good \$ense seeks to offer solid, biblically based teaching and practical, easy-to-use tools for developing healthy financial habits. Good \$ense also provides personalized attention, a facet that helps to make the most of your valuable time.

This program consists of three two-hour sessions. Additional program details will be forthcoming. If you are interested in the program, please contact the church office at 842-6760.

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 10, 2010

Immediately following the 10:30 service

For the purpose of calling the Rev. Patricia Healy Locke as Associate Pastor as recommended by the Pastor Nominating Committee and approved by Session.

Don't forget to check our website for church news, information, written and audio sermons, and upcoming events. Our web address is www.fpgh.org, and the youth web address is FPCyouth.com