



# First Presbyterian News

## August 2009

### *“Fear Not!”*

Many Biblical turning point events are characterized by the appearance of an angelic messenger, who when confronted with the fear of the visitant, says **“Fear not!”** Zechariah heard those words when the angel Gabriel visited to tell him that his wife would bear a child in her old age who would be cousin to Jesus. Mary heard them when Gabriel came to tell her that she would soon bear God’s son. Mary Magdalene and Mary and the other women heard the same words when the angel of the Lord rolled back the stone that sealed the tomb of Jesus on the day of the resurrection.

Our first reaction when faced with situations that we do not understand is to be afraid . . . especially when God sends us a messenger. Most of the time we are able to live our lives as though God were a distant friend, for whom we feel a warm affection – not a being that calls us and challenges us to a totally new understanding of life and our role in it.

Our society right now is filled with fear and anxiety – economic, military, social, and religious. Followers of Christ are being called again to step out into the world in a different way. We are being called to be the messengers. **“Fear not!”** We, the church, Christ’s body in our community, are being called to step out in faith at a time when others are cutting back and living in fear.

It is our natural instinct to reduce our giving to the church, as we are economizing and cutting back in other areas of our life, but the message of Scripture is strong and counter-cultural. God gets the first fruits of our labors. God comes first, everything else comes second. Giving to the church must be our first priority as we develop our budgets and order the priorities in our lives.

Christ calls us to engage with the world in compassion and love when times are hard. Those early followers of Christ won more converts to the faith by nursing the victims of the plague when everyone else abandoned them because God had told them to **“Fear not!”** and they believed those words and acted upon them.

If the followers of Jesus Christ do not put God first and live without fear, who else will? What kind of example are we for those around us if the ministries of Christ’s congregation suffer as a result of our fear of what the future might hold?

**“Fear not!”** Put God first. Hear the call and respond!

Blessings – Pastor Mary Ann

Church Office hours are 9-1 during the summer.

August

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**Lectionary for August**

**August 2009**

**August 2** (18th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

2 Samuel 11:26-

12:13a

Psalms 51:1-12

Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:24-35

**August 9** (19th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Psalms 130:1-8

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

John 6:35, 41-51

**August 16** (20th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Psalms 111:1-10

Ephesians 5:15-20

John 6:51-58

**August 23** (21st Sunday in Ordinary Time)

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43

Psalms 84:1-12

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

**August 30** (22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Psalms 45:1-2, 6-9

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



**It's time once again for fellowship and food, in the great outdoors.**



**August 23, mark it on you calendar, don't forget. Bring the WHOLE family!!!!**



**Worship begins at 10:30**



**A historical themed fellowship, followed by great food. What's to eat? We are having a hog roast! You bring a desert, lawn chairs and your own plates/service items.**



**Merrifield Park. Look for the Pavilion.**



**Come ready to play games and enjoy the guest musicians. Every one welcome!**



**The Deacons**



Do you have photos or reflections of our church history? Are you willing to share with your church family? Please do! Contact the 175th Anniversary Committee, as we look forward and backward seeing how far we have come, where we might yet go.

**Scrapbook Club**

The Scrapbook Club will be meeting on **August 14th from 6 pm to 11 pm**. Please note that the event is ending 1 hour earlier than usual. It seems that as I get older (and have 2 children under 2) that going to bed after midnight is not working for me! Go figure :) So, we will meet from 6 pm to 11 pm. Remember the cost is \$10 and I will provide dinner, drinks, and light snacks. If you pre-pay for the event (money to me by Friday morning), then I will give you 20 points on your card so you can get closer to earning free stuff. Anyone and everyone is welcome to come, social time is mixed with scrapbooking, maybe you only want to do a frame, or a put pictures on your computer, just let me know. Thanks and I hope to see you there, Brittany Rice

Sue Rice is the FPN editor. Send newsletter information by e-mail to Suce@aol.com or by U.S. Mail in care of Kathy at the church. There is also an FPN tray in the church CE office. The next deadline is August 17

**Date Ushers**

8/2/2009	Ethan DeMaegd	Carole Polk	Justin Tschida	Communion
8/9/2009	Jeff Krafft	Roger Krafft	Bill Bellairs	Mikey Green
8/16/2009	Michael Green	Andy Wiseman	Bob Sloan	Shelby Frick
8/23/2009	Dan Bruner	Dave Court	Esther Morrison	Chris Krafft
8/30/2009	Michael Green	Andy Wiseman	Bob Sloan	Shayna Frick

**M I S S I O N   N O T E S   F R O M   :**

  
 R e v . M a r y A n n B a n n i n g   M a r y A n n D e n t i n o   C l a u d i a R i g g s  
 J a n e t F r e e m a n   B e t t y J o h n s o n   A n n a B o w e r s

**SUMMER VACATION**

Only a few weeks left! Families will be beginning to think about students returning to school and what that means in terms of what clothing will fit and what will need to be replaced. Another thought is what kind of school supplies will be required. That is where we, as a church family, come in.

First Presbyterian Church is partnering with the Mishawaka Alliance of Care once again to help families complete those lists children bring home during the first few days of school.

The MAC has agreed to honor our connection with Battell School by directing a good share of what we collect to that school. A statistic provided indicates 55% of the children attending Battell qualified for the free lunch program last year, another 16% for reduced price. That is a startling number in just that one school. Other schools are close in those percentages.

We have an opportunity to help families get children ready to learn by providing some of the tools needed to be successful in the classroom. Many times teachers buy, from their own funds, supplies for children when families simply cannot afford them.

A collection box has been provided in the Christian Education Lobby, along with a list of items needed. **NOT INCLUDED IN THE LIST ARE BACKPACKS.** These are needed also.

Check newspaper and television ads for special prices on school supplies, get the most for your \$\$\$\$  
 Many thanks from your Mission Committee

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!' While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again! As she ran she once again began to pray, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...but please don't shove me either!'

**Attention: Bible through the Year Readers- The Adult Class**

Please complete all the reading through April's schedule and through May 13 schedule for our first meeting on September 13, the week after Labor Day. We will have a few things to catch up on from the April and May readings when we start in the Fall.

The following schedule is mapped out for the next year; please keep a copy in your booklet for your reference.

May readings in September

June readings in October

July readings in November

August readings in December

September readings in January

October readings in February

November readings in March

December readings in April and May

I am so delighted with the great discussions we have been having. Try to make the reading an over-view experience. You will not catch everything, even so, you will come up with surprising information. When you finish, you will have a much better sense of how the passages used in worship fit into the whole story of God and his people. See you in September, Betty Favorite

Christian Education... Watch your September newsletter for the upcoming event, starting with the "kick-off" on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September details to come...

I would like to ask for your help. We've all been asked to share what we hope to see happen at FPC Mishawaka to help aide in the growth of our church. I ask that you share what you like that is happening now, what you don't think is working as well as your hopes for the future. This can be limited to Christian Education, but the hope is that it will cover all of aspects of FPC Mishawaka.

I ask for your help on this as a Session member, the Chair of Christian Ed. and a lifelong member. *If we don't share what is good and what is wrong, how can we "fix it" "preserve it" and ultimately grow?* So share with a Session member whether privately, anonymously or whatever way you are most comfortable. Help us to better do our job.

***I challenge everyone to come up with one good and one not so good thing working at FPC Mishawaka by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, then pass it on to the Session.***

Thank you, Judy Green, CE Chair

## The PRAYER PAGE

### ***"My Trinity Tree"***

*~prepared by Susan May*

My "Trinity Tree" exists in a large forested area very near the dunes of Lake Michigan. One terribly windy and rather cold day, I was suddenly overwhelmed by the personal struggles I had been facing for many months. I needed to be alone, cry, and seek peace. I fled out of a cottage filled with people and into the woods. I found an old tree that spoke to my heart. It was one tree but there were three equal and distinct trunks growing from the ground level, up. There was just enough room for me to "hide" myself from the gale and rest inside. From the interior, I leaned against one, then the second, and finally the third trunk. As I faced each new view, my feet never left the one central spot. The three trunks reminded me of the Trinity, and so I prayed first to my Creator, then to my Savior, and then to my Comforter. Leaning on each trunk, I felt completely safe, even though my spine and legs felt the strong wood vibrating from the noisy, fierce whipping of branches high above. I sensed its roots, deep and broad, and unmoving. Each new view and each new prayer opened new chambers of my soul.

When you pray, especially for others, let the rich symbol of the Trinity guide you.

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~ CREATOR God, You are the Great Physician, and you know all the details of \_\_\_\_\_'s condition, both body and soul. Heal, protect, teach, and encourage this child of yours. Hold \_\_\_\_\_ in your arms.

~ Jesus, SAVIOR, you are my best friend! You "get it!" - disappointment, fear, pain, even doubt. Best of all, you have seen to it that our mistakes can never keep us apart from your love. You understand all about \_\_\_\_\_'s struggles and needs. Walk with him; let him feel your powerful love. Help him really trust you, because you, too, walked as a human on this earth, and you love each one of us, brother or sister.

~ SPIRIT of God, Comforter, Holy Ghost, you are the breath of our beings, the heart of our hearts. You are the Father's creative impulse and the Savior's living presence in this moment of trouble. Blow your blessings on \_\_\_\_\_, until he feels comfort, receives guidance, or can welcome the unrevealed will of God into his heart. Amen.