



First Presbyterian News

February 2010

A New Year in Christ's Service

*“God whose giving knows no ending,
From your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
Costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you,
Offering up ourselves in praise . . .”*

(God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending, Presbyterian Hymnal 422)

Another year in Christ's service has begun, and a few things in our lives together are changing. Your Session has voted to participate in the Presbytery of Wabash Valley's Transformation program, along with many other churches in our area of Indiana. Some of you will be asked to serve on our church's Transformation Coordinating Team, which is the group that will plan the two to three year process for our church.

In response to the overwork of some of our members and the under-involvement of others, I have asked Session elders to speak with members of their current committees and ask them to choose one Session committee on which to serve. For some members, that will mean that they will need to withdraw from another committee. It may seem counter intuitive to take this approach, but if each member serves on one committee, there will be openings for those who haven't served in a while to be invited or to volunteer themselves for service. I also encourage Session elders as they complete their term or terms of service to leave the committee responsibility that they have had and join the work of another committee. This gives the new elder a chance to be the leader. The former elder should be willing to be available by telephone in case there are questions.

This approach will give rest to members who have been serving on more than one committee of Session, and bring new voices and points of view into our committee work as we begin the Transformation process this year. It is all right for our Session committees to become smaller, as long as they don't fall below three members. During this transition, it is important that every committee member take responsibility for a portion of the committee's work. Other congregation members may be invited to help as needed with special events or projects during the year to add to the committee's regular membership.

I'd like each Session elder to bring a revised list of their committee members to our February Session meeting for approval by the Session. God gives us many opportunities to serve, both within our congregation, and outside our doors in the broader world. Every member of our congregation is needed in some way to help bring the ministry of Christ alive in our time and place . . . I hope that all of you will prayerfully consider ways that you can serve in His name.

May the peace of Christ fill you and the joy of service cause your hearts and feet to dance!

Pastor Mary Ann

Ash Wednesday – February 17th

The Worship and Music Committee would like to invite all to come to one of the services on Ash Wednesday. There will be a shorter prayer service with communion starting at 12:15 p.m. An option to participate in a meditative station will be available. The evening service will be similar and begin at 7:00 p.m. Please plan on starting this Lenten season with FPC at one of these services.

February 2010

**Lectionary for
February 2010**

Lectionary readings for Sunday

February 7, 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13),

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

February 14, 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10,

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

February 17, Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 21, 1st Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

February 28, 2nd Sunday in Lent

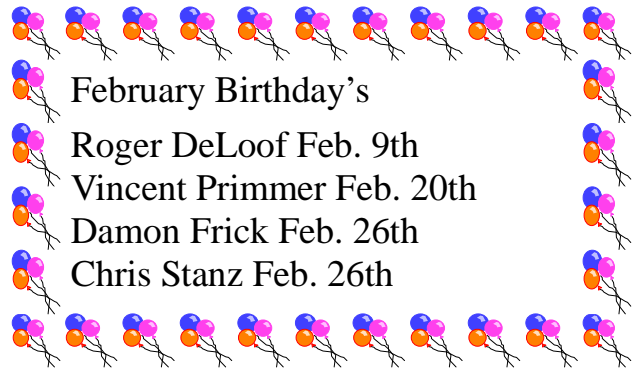
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36

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February Birthday's

Roger DeLoof Feb. 9th

Vincent Primmer Feb. 20th

Damon Frick Feb. 26th

Chris Stanz Feb. 26th

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

The following schedule is mapped out for the next year; please keep a copy in your booklet for your reference: October readings in February

November readings in March

December readings in April and May

**A NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
GROUP**

is beginning February 7. The group will meet during the Sunday School hour in February and March, in the west end of Fellowship Hall. The focus will be work, and how we carry out our occupation in response to God's gifts. Our study will center around the book *Working for God* For more

Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School The children of the nursery school are busy with many extras this month. Along with learning more of the alphabet and numbers, they will celebrate the Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day and President's Day. They'll learn about customs overseas compared with here, how a post office works (and deliver their own valentines to friends in class), and what a president does. The highlight will be a Valentine Party.

On March 13, from 4:30 to 7 the preschool will have a Polish Dinner fund raiser with all the usual fixings in fellowship hall, Adults \$9; children 3-11 \$5; 2-yr and under free. See Judy Green for tickets.

Prayer Chain

The Presbyterian Women's Prayer Chain is open to anyone who wishes to be a part of a prayer ministry. It's purpose is to call upon God on behalf of those around us who are suffering physically, emotionally, or financially; to ask for God's comfort, strength, healing presence, and will in their lives; or to rejoice with those who are rejoicing.

To be added to those receiving prayer messages is simple; email Darlene Seufert at dseufert1@aol.com You can be part of the e-mail list or phone list.

To request prayers for yourself, your family or friends is simple, too. Call one of these church members: Betty Favorite, Pam Camren or Lynett Heritz, or, you may call Kathy at the church office.

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

Meals for Hope

We served a meal in January, what a rewarding time! We have five more days of service, March 5/6, April 30/May 1, July 20/21, September 10/11 and November 12/13. The first day we fix the meal (here at church) the second day we serve. Sign up using the bulletin board at the top of the stairs. Don't forget we will come away with more than we have given.

Soup R Bowl Sunday

is February 7, 2010. Please bring your items the day of the big game, anything that tastes good in soup is welcomed. All items collected will go to Albright Food Pantry.

Mission Trip

Anyone interested in traveling to Texas to help rebuild the hurricane destroyed area should plan to attend a meeting on February 7 after Sunday School. Details will be given at that time. The dates for the trip will be from June 13 to June 19.

First Aid Kits for Hope Ministries

Twenty-five aid kits were assembled by our church school children. They were delivered before Christmas to be used by the residents living at the Family Life Center in the apartments. This was done in celebration of our 175th anniversary. Thank you to everyone that contributed first aid items for the kits, you are a blessing.
Mary Ann Dentino, Mission Interpretation

MISHAWAKA ALLIANCE OF CARE

The MAC Tutor/Helper Program is growing. The interest among member churches is also growing. Nearly all the volunteers have been placed. The FPC connection with Battell School is recognized as another of this church's commitments to local mission. The MAC Tutor/Helper Program is offered to all elementary schools. Word has come that Mishawaka High School has established a voluntary after school study table for students in need of extra help in certain subjects. All of these projects have similar goals; giving students a chance to become successful.

The Food Pantry continues to serve the community each Tuesday and Friday. Contributions of food and money keep the pantry open. Hunger doesn't take a holiday. The holiday food drives filled the shelves; however, the number of clients being served is still at an all time high. The MAC is grateful for the weekly contributions to the grocery cart and for Dick Badry's faithful Monday morning deliveries.

Warren Kirkwood at Albright Food Pantry, is in need of a volunteer to assist him in managing and working with the other volunteers at the pantry. His duties as an associate pastor are requiring more of his time. Think about this opportunity as a way of "giving back" to our neighbors. Contact Albright United Methodist Church. Your inquiry would be most welcome.

News of Presbyterian Women

On Sat. Jan. 16, eight women from FPC toured Copshaholm (Oliver mansion in South Bend) and viewed the displays at the Northern Indiana Center for History on the 175th anniversary of the founding of the city of Mishawaka. The lost landmarks display and the artifacts from our history brought many comments. Lunch together afterwards was a most enjoyable time.

Upcoming events to mark on your calendars are:

Fri/Sat	Feb. 26-27	Statewide Spiritual Gathering of PW in Hartford City, IN	cost is \$56
Fri/Sat	March 19-20	Let's Learn Together at Geneva Center	"A Spirit Festival"
Sat.	April 24	Spring Gathering (PWP Business Meeting)	Wabash Ave. PC Crawfordsville

Registration information for each of these events is posted on the PW Bulletin Board on the landing in the CE Lobby. If you have questions, see Pam Camren.

Basement Sale Alert! Yes, it is time to start cleaning closets and cupboards and gathering your items for the April Basement Sale. Watch FPC News for more details in March

Stamping for the Soul

Friday February 5, 2010 6 pm

Would you like to do something that makes you feel good? Do you like to or have you wanted to learn to rubber stamp? Would you like some fellowship time in your week? Would you like to make artistic creations? Sound Fun?

If you answer yes to one or more of these questions then come and join us for a creative evening of paper-crafting. We will be gathering to make 3 hand-crafted projects with rubber stamps, ink, and beautiful papers. All skill levels are welcome. Please feel free to invite your neighbors, friends and colleagues to join in on this wonderful time of creative fellowship. Cost is \$10 and includes project materials. Participants are asked to bring their own adhesive. If you need adhesive, let Jen know and she can order some for you. RSVP by Feb 3rd to Jen Woodman or jarnoldwoodman@yahoo.com
Looking forward to creating with you!

Scrapbook Fun Night

Happy New Year! I am looking forward to helping you with your photo organization and album making goals. Our next meeting will be February 12th from 6 pm to 11 pm in the fellowship hall. If you know someone that likes to scrapbook, then bring them along. The cost is \$10 and includes set-up, pizza, drinks, light snacks, goodies, and clean-up. Just bring your photos and any supplies that you have. If you have never tried scrapbooking and want to try it, plan to stop by and bring some photos with you. I will help you make a page for FREE. Please call if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you there! Brittany Rice

Men's Breakfast Saturday, February 13

Chris Geesman told the stories.

Wes Doi wrote them down.

The book "The Geesman Game" was the result.

Our guest for February's breakfast will be WES DOI. Wes is an English teacher at Schmucker Middle School and was one of Geesman's assistant coaches for 29 years. Some things you may hear about: When and how did the idea of a book surface? How long was the writing process? How did he deal with editors? Does he have a favorite Geesman story? Join us on the 13th and bring your own questions. Alan Camren

GAME NIGHT
FEBRUARY 13
FELLOWSHIP HALL
7:00 P.M.

Is the cold weather, snow and ice getting you down? Join your church family for a fun night of cards and games in Fellowship Hall! All you need to do is bring a snack or appetizer to share and a smile. If you have a favorite game, Bring it too. Let's fill the tables with friends and family and fun!!

Book Group will be meeting on February 21 at 4 p.m. at Betty Favorites home. This month's reading is Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See. Lynett Heritz will lead the discussion. Please come join us, we always have fun.

Calling for some volunteers to bake cookies for St. Margaret House's annual Winter Walk On February 21. Only 2 or 3 helpers are needed, please contact Nanette at home for more information. Thank You

Situation Report

Haiti

January 13, 2010

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has issued an emergency appeal for Haiti, where millions of people have been affected by a major earthquake that struck the country on Tuesday, January 12. The exact number of casualties is unknown at this time, nor is the full extent of the damage; however, reports indicate that tens of thousands — possibly hundreds of thousands — of people are feared dead and countless others have been left homeless.

The Haitian infrastructure was already in a fragile state. The earthquake has caused widespread damage of homes and other buildings as well as damage to water, electrical and road systems. Symbols of security such as schools, hospitals and churches have been damaged or destroyed.

PDA Response

PDA is rushing an initial \$100,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing and designated funds to help provide immediate emergency relief to the affected people. Funds are being sent through our ecumenical and local partners working in Haiti.

PC(USA) mission co-worker Carlos Cardenas is joining an ecumenical team through the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance going to Haiti to help with the response and needs assessments.

Presbyterian World Mission is gathering information on the safety and status of our mission personnel and ecumenical partners in the area.

What you can do *You can stand in the gap for disaster survivors and help the church in this response.

GIVE. The generous sharing of your financial blessings through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and special designated giving provide resources needed to assist with immediate and long-term recovery needs.

Individuals may give through your local Presbyterian congregation, on the secure PC(USA) Web site, or by sending a check to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

P.O. Box 643700

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Please include the special designated giving account DR000064 – Haiti.

Congregations should send donations through their normal mission giving channels.

ACT. Stay informed and share information on the need with others. Sign up to receive PDA-RIN email notices to alert you of additional needs. Consider making Gift of the Heart hygiene kits. A shipment of hygiene kits is being prepared by Church World Service to send to Haiti. When widespread disasters occur, there is usually a need to replenish the supply to ensure a sufficient quantity for future disaster situations.

PRAY. Please continue in prayer for all who have who lost friends and families, those who lost homes, and those seeking a sense of security after being affected by this tragic earthquake.

Christian Education...**Calling all girls** (at heart)

Feb. 5, (new date) we will be having a girls "sleepover/lock-in" for grades 3 and up. Be thinking of a friend or two to invite

Sunday school "Sub Sale" for Super Bowl.

Please pick up your pre-ordered sub during Fellowship on Feb. 7th. Proceeds will go to a charity of the kids choosing.

"I was penciling one of my *Family Circus* cartoons and our little Jeffy said,

'Daddy, how do you know what to draw?'

"I said, 'God tells me.'

"Jeffy said, 'Then why do you keep erasing parts of it?'

—Bil Keane

Have you seen your 2010 offering envelopes?

To save postage, no unclaimed envelopes have been mailed so far. There are a number of boxes on the racks along the west wall in Memorial Lounge, hoping to be picked up. They'll be mailed soon if not picked up.

PER CAPITA: We are a connectional church with higher judicatories (presbytery, synod, general assembly) to support. Each church is asked to contribute \$32.16 per member. It is a line item in our budget and for 2010 the amount is \$5,800.

The anticipated per capita contributions from the members is \$1500 or about \$9 a person. If the members would use the per capita envelopes to pay their share or a major portion of it, any amount over \$1,500 could be used for mission support, CE material, additional outreach programs, updating maintenance or office equipment, etc. Remember, this is per member, not per couple. A check in that envelope would help our financial picture.

Alan Camren

A promise unfulfilled: an apology

The stewardship campaign involved honoring our past and anticipating our future. Present and past members were given an opportunity to submit names of persons who played a significant role in their Christian growth. Over 60 names were received - an impressive list of dedicated saints. This was done in October and November.

Christmas approached and all the responses and most of the rest of the stewardship material were put in a box to be dealt with later. It was placed by my desk. Unfortunately the box looked similar to the box that I use to put things in to be recycled. The story could end here since most who are reading this very likely know the ending. But to continue.

Monday after Christmas we put stuff in the trash and recycle containers to be emptied Tuesday morning. It was not until 2010 that I looked for the box. The names were to be compiled along with the comments that were added and shared at the congregation's annual meeting in January. The whole house was searched several times to no avail. Conclusion: the responses were inadvertently recycled.

My sincere apologies to all but particularly to those of you who submitted names. It would have been good for those people to be recognized who were important in helping others grow in their faith. That sort of thing is not done often enough. I am truly sorry. Alan Camren

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For Such a time as This Esther 4:14
Purdue University

July 20 thru July 24
Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2010

About Triennium

[Http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org/participants.php](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org/participants.php)

Welcome to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Even as you read this page we are preparing for PYT 2010 “for Such a Time as This”! As the event draws near you’ll find updates, schedules, and forms on the website.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches are centered around the life, teaching, and worship of God as lived by Jesus Christ. This includes the daily invitation to all of us to pray, serve and “Go into the world!” For young people it helps to spend dedicated time discerning what these invitations mean. At the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, through the presentations, the studies, recreational events and free time we strive to connect youth and adults with activities that inspire them to be alert, be active and seek ways to connect their lives with their growing faith. We believe that young people are prime carriers of the hope Christians are called to possess. And we believe that the Triennium is the perfect place to generate substantial energy and action on behalf of our Lord, Jesus Christ! The event is planned around a central theme. Each day there is a sub-theme and supporting scriptures, speakers, conversations and mission opportunities. It is our goal to offer an experience that provides youth with the opportunity to explore their faith and their faith practices alongside those of the past and present faith communities.

The Presbyterian Youth Triennium is an event sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches (CPC and CPCA). Registration for the Triennium is coordinated through presbytery or your church. Please check out the web site for more information.

