



Dear First Presbyterian Friends,

The loveliness of last week's snow has made the continuing presence of winter more bearable. I enjoy a number of aspects of the season – walking home after evening meetings at church being a particular favorite – but I also find my tolerance for the season's length decreasing as I age. The singing of the now year-round robin population is more than a little disorienting, and I will have to be patient for more genuine harbingers of spring.

A number of items are on my mind this week, so let me share them with you.

First, let me remind everyone that it is perfectly acceptable, and encouraged, to make a financial pledge at any time during the year (and now you can do so through our website: www.firstpresbyterian.org). We received fewer pledge commitments for 2010 than we had for 2009, and I'm wondering if some folks were cautious about making a pledge in light of the continuing economic challenges. But it's never too late to do so. Pledging not only grounds us in the discipline of generosity, it also allows your session to be good stewards of our resources as they monitor our budget. Our financial situation continues to be challenging, and we need everyone's support to carry forth our ministry and mission.

Second, spring will bring the Intergenerational Detroit Mission Project the weekend of April 23-25. The Self Study (and the report thereof will be completed soon) shows strong support for more local and intergenerational mission opportunities, and this project is a fine blending of both. A variety of work, about which we'll be hearing more very soon, will need doing, so there will be something for everyone to do. I would love to see us have 100 people participating in this project.

Third, your session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, March 7 following the 9:30 service for the purpose of electing an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. Please join us for this important moment in our life together.

A prayer to share from Celtic Prayers from Iona by J. Philip Newell:

O Loving Christ, who died upon the tree,
Each day and night, I remember your love.
In my lying down and in my rising up, in life and in death,
You are my health and peace.
Each day and night, I remember your forgiveness,
Bestowed on my so gently and generously.
Each day and night, may I be full in love to you. Amen +

See you in church.

Jany Farris