



First Press

A NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR
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Stewardship 2012 – Everyone Counts!

Stewardship Commitment Month at our church begins October 2 and ends on October 30, Commitment Sunday. This is a time for celebration in our church. The recent installation of our new head of staff, Dr. Fairfax Fair, signals an opportunity for growth in all areas of our church's life. We hope you will be inspired and challenged, as we pray together, share stories, and make commitments to be good stewards and share our gifts of prayer, time, talent and money.

To celebrate and focus on our potential and that *Everyone Counts*, the Stewardship Committee is using flowers and flower bulbs as part of our stewardship program. We will plant 1200 daffodil, tulip, and crocus bulbs—one for every household, child and youth in our church family!

Pick up your flower kit – Sunday, October 2

Each member household has a flower kit with their name on it which will be ready for pick-up by the Welcome Center before or after each service on October 2, and 9 or during **Wednesday 2:42**, on October 5. Each child and youth within our church will receive their own flower bulb kit during Sunday School on October 9.

Place the bulb you receive in a prominent location in your home, celebrate the potential it represents and pray that God will help each of us live out our potential. Included in the kit will be a prayer focus for the first few weeks in October. (Return the bulb Sunday, October 30.)

Stewardship Materials delivered in mid October – Return your Bulb and Cards

The Stewardship Packet you receive in the mail will include detailed information on our church's projected 2012 budget and the stewardship goal we have established that will allow us to meet this budget.

We ask that you be in thought and prayer about the coming year, and then complete the Commitment to Serve Cards and return them along with your Financial Commitment to Card to the church on or before October 30. Or, make your commitment online!

October 30 is Stewardship Commitment Sunday

Your Financial Commitment Card, Commitment to Serve Card and your flower bulb are due back to the church on Sunday, October 30, Commitment Sunday. Each bulb is needed to create our lovely spring-time garden. After each service we invite individuals, families or designated gardeners to help us plant our bulbs in anticipation of a beautiful spring garden and growing ministry of the church.

Remember, you can always go online and make your financial commitment in just a matter of a few clicks! Go to <http://firstpresbyterian.org/content/stewardship-2012>.

Dear Friends,

I write this still filled with joy over the events of my installation weekend. Many, many thanks to all who welcomed my family and out-of-town friends, who worked to make Sunday's worship a glorious occasion in praise of God, and who prepared the Social Hall and the delicious food for the reception. Did you notice the dahlias on the tables? They were magnificent! A special thank you must go to the members of your Pastor Nominating Committee – Rick Boothman, Carol German, Doug Gottlieb, Jane Hayes, Kathy Hillig, Lois Jelneck, Bill Keesor, Carol Smith, and Paul Tichenor – who have become fast friends and who coordinated the events of the weekend. A word of gratitude also must go to the Congregational Life Committee, my wonderful staff colleagues, and all the musicians (including my buddies from Camp Westminster) who added to our service of worship. It was a fabulous day, and a great springboard for our future together in ministry.

Fall ministries are in full swing. The ways to be involved are almost limitless. Have you found your niche? Are you hungry to serve in a new ministry, to use your gifts to help others, to get to know new people through Bible study, community outreach, or campus ministry? Call any of us who serve you as your pastors or committee leaders and we will help you get plugged in.

Thanks again for celebrating with me my installation as your pastor. Together may we find joy in the Lord who creates us, loves us, and blesses us with all perfect gifts.

Grace and peace,



Fairfax F. Fair, pastor



Pilgrimage to Iona

The First Pres Iona Pilgrims invite you to consider a pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland in 2012. We are planning to send small groups from our church to the Iona Community April 19 - 29, 2012, and September 27 - October 7, 2012. An informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5, at 7:00 p.m., in the Lewis Room. The informational session will give further insight into what a pilgrimage is, why it is an appealing journey, which First Pres members and pastors are leading these trips, and why the Iona Community is so unique. Please consider this deeply enriching spiritual journey as a part of your faith journey in 2012. Trips will be limited to eight participants, not including leaders, and commitments are needed by October 10.



Children and Families

Bibles for Third Graders

Each year our church gives a Bible to all third graders, and to fourth and fifth graders who have never received a Bible. This year Bibles will be given during the 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, October 9. Following worship, there will be a gathering of all the children and their families in Monteith Hall to celebrate their Milestone, Exploring the Word of God.

Letters have gone out to households asking how your child's name should be inscribed in their Bible. If you have not received a letter please e-mail Debbie MacVey at dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org, by October 3.





Children and Families (continued)

Children asked to Give and Serve to say Thank You to God

What are the ways that we say “thank you” to God? Through our prayers we say “thank you” to God. Every time we pray at home or at church we a “thank you” prayer to God for all of the things that God has done for us. . . good food for us to eat, a house for us to live in, help when we are having problems. We also thank God through our acts of service. Maybe you take special care of something at home -- a pet, your garden, your room, other members of your family. Maybe you like music and are in one of our children’s choirs. Maybe you like to be outdoors and help the church by raking leaves in the fall. We can also thank God through our giving. We say “thank you” to God when we give money to be used for God’s work in the world. Our gift of money is called an offering.

The money you give is used in many different ways. Your offering bought farm animals to give to poor people in other countries. It purchased school supplies for children in the Philippines, in Peru and in Costa Rica. It bought medical supplies for people in our own country who have suffered through floods, hurricanes and earthquakes. Your gift of money helps the church here in Ann Arbor work for God. Through our gift of money, we say "thank you "to God.

The children and youth in our congregation will be receiving a letter outlining all the ways they can **Serve and Give** and say thank you to God. On October 9th, all of the children will be given a **flower bulb** to take home. At home this flower bulb will remind us of the ways that we say "thank you" to God.

On October 23, the children and youth will bring their flower bulbs back to church to be planted in a special Church School garden. The children will also bring their Serving and Giving cards back to church on October 30, Stewardship Commitment Sunday.



Adult Education Opportunities

2011 Fall Adult Education Class Schedule

Our Adult Education schedule is packed with opportunities to study and deepen our faith. Join us on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings!

Sunday Mornings:

8:00 a.m.

The “Sunday Morning @ 8:00” class studies *Eat this Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading* by Eugene Peterson. The book and study guide are \$20 and are available through Rev. Rogers. This 9-week class meets at 8:00 a.m. in the Founders’ Room and is led by pastors. Join anytime!

9:30 a.m.

“The Bible at 9:30” will continue the study of Jeremiah. This weekly class is led by the Rev. Ed Koster and meets in the Library/French Room at 9:30 a.m. Join anytime!

11:00 a.m.

“Sunday Mornings at 11” include these varied classes in the Lewis Room:

SEPTEMBER 25, OCTOBER 9, AND OCTOBER 16:

Religion with Dr. Ramirez

The Sunday Series at 11:00 a.m. begins in the Lewis Room with the first of three lectures by Daniel Ramirez, PhD., Assistant Professor, North American Religious History, Program in American Culture (Latina/o Studies) and Department of History, University of Michigan. The series topics are September 25, Catholicism; October 9, The Social Gospel; and October 16, New Age Fundamentalism.





Adult Education Opportunities (continued)

OCTOBER 2:

Our Youth in Jamaica

This Sunday, during a one-week pause in the Ramirez lecture series, participants move to Monteith Hall (note change of venue) for a presentation by the youth of our congregation on their summer mission trip to Jamaica. First Pres' biggest mission team of 2011 went to Montego Bay, Jamaica, to the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf. You are invited to come and see the slide show, hear reports from all five work projects, learn the Deaf community, and discover how our students made a difference this summer.

OCTOBER 23 THROUGH NOVEMBER 20:

From Jesus to the Early Church: Clues from the Book of Acts

In five weeks, we will examine the steps of the early followers of Jesus, the particular Spirit-led decisions they made to transform the structurally loose fellowship of Jesus into an organized entity, the church. Jesus began his ministry with subtly organizational steps: a baptism, a retreat in the wilderness, the selection of twelve close associates. When he was no longer with them, his followers built on this foundation to institutionalize his work. The Book of Acts show of us some of this development. These classes are lead by Dr. Waldemar Schmeichel in the Lewis Room.

DECEMBER 4, 11 AND 18:

The Thoughtful Christian: Traveling the Advent Journey

Be immersed in the season of Advent. This class, which will meet in the Lewis Room, will be led by pastors.

Wednesday Evenings:

5:00 PM - SEPTEMBER 28 - NOVEMBER 16:

Bible 101

Vance Room

This class, for those who want to know more about the Bible, is led by pastors.

A book is available when you attend.

The Prayer 101: The Praying Life

Lewis Room

Using the book, *A Praying Life*, we will learn to pray and pray together.

The book is available through Rev. Rogers, \$9.00.

Meet & Greet at 5:00 p.m. with Rev. Fair (October 12 only)

Monteith Hall

Come get to know our new Head of Staff and Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair. Those who missed their chapel's summer gatherings are especially invited.

7:00 PM - SEPTEMBER 28 - NOVEMBER 16:

Bible 101

Vance Room

This class, for those who want to know more about the Bible, is led by pastors. A book is available when you attend.



Adult Education Opportunities (continued)

Housekeeping (September 28 and October 5)

Monteith Hall

Marilynne Robinson's first novel, *Housekeeping* (1980), is a deeply moving narrative of women making their ways in a world filled with losses and equally filled with unexpected blessings. The novel is informed by Robinson's inquiries into matters of faith; like all of her work, it is theologically profound. And yet is also so lyrical, so filled with beauty at the level of every sentence that reading it becomes an occasion for celebrating the human capacity for creation. This class and discussion will be facilitated by **John Whittier-Ferguson**, Associate Professor, English Department, University of Michigan. This book is available in the church office for \$11.00.



Meet & Greet at 7:00 p.m. with Rev. Fair (October 12 only)

Monteith Hall

Come get to know our new Head of Staff and Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair. Those who missed their chapel's summer gatherings are especially invited.

A More Profound Alleluia (October 19 through November 16)

First Presbyterian Nave

A book study of *A More Profound Alleluia* (see extended article on page 13)

New Member Class (November 2 and 9)

Lewis Room

A class for those considering uniting with the First Presbyterian Church family in membership.



Church, Community and World



Cinnamon Roll Sale

The Israel/Palestine Mission Task Force will soon be holding its annual cinnamon roll fundraiser. These popular treats will be on sale during Coffee Hour on Sunday, October 23, and Sunday, October 30. They can be ordered as plain, with raisins, or with pecans. The cost of each package of cinnamon rolls is \$10.00. All proceeds are used to support the Mar Elias Educational Institutions in the Palestinian village of Ibillin, Israel.

Christmas Care Packages

Come prepare and pack care packages to send to military personnel serving overseas! We will meet on Saturday, November 12, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Curtis and Founders Room. This special event is being sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church Military Veterans Group. Members, friends, other church groups, families - all are invited to help!

What will be packed? Items you bring! Please bring items for packing to the church November 12 by 3:00 p.m. to be included in the boxes. If you have some items to send but can't come November 12, please contact John Kinzinger at (734) 994-0444. Whether it is a card, a helping hand to pack boxes, or a cash donation to help with the \$17 (average) postage cost per box, know that your help will make the day and improve morale for troops far from home.

continued next page >



Church, Community and World (continued)

Items that are appreciated by those serving overseas are:

- Uplifting letters and notes addressed to “Dear Trooper”
- Gold Bond Foot Powder
- Power bars, high in protein
- Socks (brown, white or black) ... high ones to wear in boots
- Feminine hygiene comfort items for our female troopers
- Heavy duty shower shoes, air freshener
- Individual packs of snack foods like peanuts, crackers and jerky
- Writing paper, pens, envelopes (with the self-seal strip)
- AA Batteries, DVDs and CDs
- Hand held games, crossword and word puzzle books
- Soccer balls, Nerf balls, Frisbees
- New or used Beanie Babies for the troops to give to children they meet there, some in hospitals

The boxes we mail will be a welcome surprise to the men and women who receive them. John Kinzinger, who has prepared packages like this for over eight years (he has helped send more than 2500 boxes), has shared responses with us. Those who have received boxes have written how much this brightened their day, how the squad was looking forward to the contents after they returned from their patrol, and how it was meaningful that someone cared enough to think of them.

There will be a potluck dinner after we have finished the packing provided by the Military Veterans Group. Enjoy this fellowship and service as we work together with the FPC Military Veterans Group on Saturday, November 12 to support our troops.

Food Rescue in the Big House

Did you know that members of First Pres are working with Food Gatherers to rescue food from Michigan Stadium and get it to those in need? So far, almost 4,000 pounds of food has been saved. When the first home game was rained out, over 2,400 pizzas were loaded onto the Food Gatherers the truck by Don Redding, Barry and Jeanette Swartz. They worked until 10:30 p.m. to get the job done. After Michigan's first night game, the intrepid team worked until 2:00 a.m. to help provide food for those in need in Washtenaw county. Thanks to all these First Pres saints for helping in such an amazing way!

CROP Hunger Walk

The annual Washtenaw CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, October 2, beginning at Ann Arbor's Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. There will be 2K and 10K walks. The CROP Walk raises awareness about hunger and also money to help alleviate hunger around the world, largely through self-help development initiatives. Approximately 25% of the funds raised by the walk and food donations will go to 15 local agencies that help hungry people. Please consider participating in this year's walk by walking or sponsoring a walker. To do so, or to get more information about the walk, go to <http://www.icpj.net/program-areas/hunger/crop/>.

Celebrating Delonis Center Volunteers

First Presbyterian Church will honor Delonis Center volunteers on Sunday, October 16, at the coffee hour after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Since the completion of the Delonis Center eight years ago, our volunteer programs occur on Wednesday evenings. Two shifts enable the volunteers to prepare and serve the evening meal to approximately 140 people. Congregation contributed greeting cards are available for selection by the guests during the Wednesday night evening meal. Church volunteers sort and prepare the cards, then assist the guests with their selection. Stamps are provided. These long-standing programs are another part of our Church outreach into our community.



Church, Community and World (continued)

Haiti Medical Mission Pie Sale

Doesn't a delicious, homemade apple pie taste good? The Haiti Medical Mission Task Force will be making and freezing apple pies ready for you to take home and pop in the oven (or bake later). They will be available for purchase in the Social Hall on October 16, or to make sure you get one of these delectable delights, contact Marge Van Meter (mvanm@umich.edu, 971-6376) to order yours now! Want to bake your own pie? Bags of ready to use frozen rhubarb will also be available.



Vanuatu: A Report

On June 24, four members of First Pres traveled to the 83-island country of Vanuatu located in the South Pacific. Tim and Marti Wendler, Carol Mohrlock and Sue Jeffers along with eight members from Holland First Presbyterian Church visited in order to assess what assistance could be provided to help support the Vanuatu educational system. The trip was arranged in cooperation with World Mission, PC(USA), and was lead by David Walter, South Pacific Regional Partnership Faciliator for PC(USA) and his wife, Rev. Linda Knieriemen, pastor of Holland First Presbyterian.

The Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu (PCV) is a major force in the social, political, education and spiritual life of Vanuatu. After the country achieved independence in 1980, PCV turned over its administration of the education system to the government, although maintained a roll in that capacity. The current education system, both government and church-run, is severely limited in resources and trained personnel. Because of this, only 5% of students graduate with the equivalent of a US high school education. Recently, the government has proposed to "turn back" ownership of nearly 76 primary and secondary schools to PCV.

The Presbyterian Church Education Authority of PCV will be responsible for the transition and incorporation of the schools into the PCV structure. This transition represents a major undertaking and a major opportunity. The mission group met numerous times with PCV officials, including Jonathan Tarip, head of PCV schools. Jonathan voiced the urgent need for educational administration and management training.

As part of the needs assessment, the group visited schools in in a number of areas, including Port Vila (the capital), the campus of Onesua Presbyterian College, and the island of Nguna, where electricity and plumbing are sparse.

Our First Pres group, as well as our new friends from the Holland church, will be assessing how we can partner with PCV as it handles the influx of nearly 76 new schools and struggles to improve the quality of education. We are considering a return trip to Vanuatu with educational personnel to assist Jonathan in educational administration and management. For more information, contact Sue Jeffers at sjeffers1@me.com.





Church, Community and World (continued)

The Jeane Seeley Mission Fund

The Jeane Seeley Mission Fund (JSMF) is pleased to announce the approval of two exciting Mission projects:

- Funds to complete restoration of two apartments in the Brady Building, owned by Cass Community Social Services. The apartments will provide permanent, affordable housing for previously homeless individuals. First Pres has an ongoing relationship with Cass.
- Funds to bring Jonathan Tarip, the Minister of Education in Vanuatu, to Ann Arbor for three months where he will receive training in educational administration. In return, Tim and Marti Wendler will travel to Vanuatu to provide support and teacher training.

The Jeane Seeley Mission Fund is also hosting two important opportunities for the congregation to learn more about these and other projects and how they might utilize the fund as well.

On October 16 at 11:00 a.m., the JSMF will host a workshop and encourage members to bring their mission ideas for discussion. We will discuss the criteria for application and walk through the application process. On October 23, the JSMF is sponsoring the coffee hour after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. We will have a photo presentation as well as information about applying for grants.

Please join us as we continue to celebrate the life of one of First Pres' saints, Jeane Seeley.

Cass Work Day - Saturday, October 22 - needs YOU

Cass Community Social Services is asking for our help again this fall! Many of you have worked at Cass in a number of capacities in the past year or were part of the 75 person group that kicked off our partnership in April 2010. Cass is an agency (born out of the mission program of Cass United Methodist Church) located in northwest Detroit that provides services to the homeless and developmentally disabled. Cass recently purchased a 32-unit apartment building that is in various stages of rehabilitation. (see article above on the Jeane Seeley funds, which have donated \$20,000 to this project.) This is a great opportunity for all of us—young and old—to help our brothers and sisters in Detroit. Please come work with us on October 22. Absolutely no skills are required. Sign up in the office or email Sue Jeffers sjeffers1@me.com.



Congregational Life

Congregational Care – Transitions

Joined the Church Triumphant:

Anne Holland, August 8

Kay Lands, August 22

Olga Esch, August 26

Peg Hartz, August 29

Glenda Tichenor, September 2

Marjorie Zugich, September 18

Ethel Nesbitt, September 26

Leona Jacobs, September 27

Marriages: Jan Paris to Paul Hartlieb, September 9

Births: Maizie Justina, to Brian and Justina Lampman, August 31

Moving: Ellen and George Mozurkewich family, to Albuquerque, New Mexico



Congregational Life (continued)

Grief Lecture Open to All

Stephen Ministry Continuing Education offerings are held once a month on Monday evenings, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. Join us on October 10 for "Picking up the Pieces: Coping with the Death of a Family Member," presented by César Valdez, LMSW. This presentation will particularly focus on grief in children. All members and friends of First Pres are welcome to attend the lecture.



Third Sunday Potluck Returns!

All are invited to eat together! Please join us for the Third Sunday Potluck on October 16, in the Social Hall following the 11:00 a.m. service. This month our potluck is sponsored by the Choir. Bring a simple or "stress-free" dish to share. We will enjoy eating and visiting together. Looking forward to seeing you there!

20's-30's Ministry

We go by many names: the 20's and 30's; Young Adults; TNT. We haven't landed on a name yet, but if you think you fit, then you do! All are welcome to join us for our events. Email Pastor Dave if you would like to be added to our email list.

F2A2:

First Friday with TNT will be held Friday, October 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Deb and Danny Forger. Stay tuned for specific details. RSVP (662-4466, ext. 341 or dprenticehyers@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information!

Faith on Tap:

Join us on Monday, October 17, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Ashley's Pub. Even though this occurs during fall break, plan to meet us at Ashley's for a "come and go" social time.

October First Singles

October 2, 9, and 16: Singles will join the 11:00 a.m. Adult Education classes

October 23: Marcy Toon will review the book, *In Silence: Growing Up Hearing in a Deaf World*, by Ruth Sidransky.

October 30: Singles will view the DVD, *The League of Grateful Sons*, a production of Vision Forum Ministries.

Don't miss the Fall 2011 First Pres Photo Show!

The Fall First Presbyterian photo show, sponsored by the Adult Education Committee, will be on display Oct. 16 through Nov. 6 in the Social Hall. You are invited to come and meet the exhibitors on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Some are professionals, but most are amateurs. They all share a desire to share their favorite photographic visions and to meet others in the church. If you are interested in being an exhibitor in the future, please contact Marion Powers (761-9859, or mmpowers@umich.edu).





Congregational Life (continued)

Quad A and B: Come to Your Brunch!

To all members of Quad A: Our Annual Brunch takes place in the Social Hall on October 30, after the 11:00 a.m. worship. **To all members of Quad B:** Our Annual Brunch takes place in the Social Hall one week later, on November 6, after the 11:00 a.m. worship.

These annual Quad brunches are celebrations of fall, a time to gather with old friends, meet new ones and enjoy a bountiful feast. A postcard will be sent to you by your deacon, who will follow-up with a phone call. Let them know what dish you will bring -- a fruit or vegetable dish, salad, bread or dessert. Deacons will bring main dish casseroles.

Need to know if you live in A or B? The new photo directory will list your chapel number by your name in the back section. We look forward to seeing you there! If you have questions, please contact your deacon directly. If you are not sure of your deacon's name, contact the church office.

Thursdays with Mature Ministries

Mature people are busy people! A copy of the annual Mature Ministries newsletter, with a list of all programs for the month, can be found at the church Welcome Center. Of special interest is our October Thursday events. Where will you join in this month?

On the **first Thursday**, join a discussion, "The Gospel of Judas." We meet October 6, at 12:30 p.m. in the Vance Room, led by the Rev. Gary Oliver. To pick up the reading ahead of time, contact Rev. Rogers at mrrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.

The monthly **Hilltoppers** gathering, on October 13 at noon in the Social Hall, will present Dr. Keiko Asao, University of Michigan physician, offering the lecture, "Recovering from the Perfect Storm in Japan: Two Perspectives." Dr. Asao will include slides and stories from her trip to help Japan's recovery effort following the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Lunch is \$5. Please sign up soon in the church office.

On the **third Thursday**, October 20, there are two mission opportunities. In the morning, come to First Pres Curtis Room to tie fleece blankets for VA Hospital residents. In the afternoon, join us to cook and serve dinner at the Peace Neighborhood Center. For more information on either project, contact Ginny Rezmierski (ver@umich.edu).

On the **fourth Thursday**, October 27, join us for a movie outing (title and time to be determined).



Campus Ministry

The school year has just started but it's not too early to sign up for our spring break mission trips in partnership with Young Life College. We are offering two trips for Spring Break 2012. A domestic trip to the Pilgrimage in Washington D.C., an outreach ministry of The Church of the Pilgrim (PCUSA), www.thepilgrimage.org, and a return trip to the Dominican Republic in partnership with La Vida Joven.

WASHINGTON D.C.: The Pilgrimage

February 25 - March 3, 2012 Cost: under \$500

This is a trip built by our team. Mornings are spent at the volunteer site of our choice and evenings are spent in the city. Possible volunteer projects: Capital Area Community Food Bank, Calvary Shelter for Women, D.C. Area Central Kitchen, food & friends -- delivering food to those with HIV/AIDS, Martha's Table.

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: La Vida Joven

February 24 - March 2, 2012 Cost: \$1,200

For half of the week, our group will be divided into teams for different home construction sites to build houses for volunteers at La Vida Joven. The second half of the week is spent in La Vega helping with club and street clean up. We will have home-stays in La Vega.



Opportunities for Women

Women's Evening Bible Study (WEBS)

Our next meeting is October 3, at 7:00 p.m., in the Curtis Room. The group uses the Horizons Bible Study Resource Book on the Beatitudes, which will be available at the first meeting. The first lesson in the book is "Greatly Honored Are the Poor." All women are welcome. Contact Jennie Lombard, (734) 663-7244 for information.



Presbyterian Women of Detroit (PWPD)

Our gathering date is October 5, at 9:45 a.m., at the Second Mile Center, 18391 Morang, Detroit, (313) 245-5252. Lunch will be at 12:30 p.m., (\$7.00). October is "Month of Mission." Dr. Jane Holstag, a Missionary from Indonesia will speak. The program also includes a Thank Offering interpretation, Church Women United interpretation of "World Community Day," and the October Ingathering information.

First Pres' Presbyterian Women Gathering – Wednesday, October 19

October is the "Month of Mission." A recent mission worker will be our guest and tell about work being done in other countries where PW have supported their work. Come hear what our partners in Christ are doing.

The morning schedule is as follows:

9:15 a.m. – Bible Study in the Lewis Room. The study is lesson two from Confessing the Beatitudes, "Greatly Honored Are the Mourners!" The study is led by Jane Kinzinger and books are available.

10:45 a.m. – Mission Presentation in Montieth Hall.

12:00 p.m. – Luncheon in the Social Hall (\$7.00). Please sign up in the Church Office by Monday, October 17.



Women's Reading Group

This group, which meets the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m., gathers on October 12 at the home of Sue Dempsey. The group will discuss chapter two of Rob Bell's book, "Love Wins." Contact Barbara Black, (734) 663-6289, for details or to order the book.

Presbyterian Women's Ingathering

The Ingathering is a yearly mission project sponsored by the PW of the Detroit Presbytery and takes place at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Detroit.

Various PW groups buy or sew quota items as needed, for local and overseas missions. Volunteers are needed for coordinating positions and also to work with the boxing crew, counting crew, distribution crew, loading crew and delivery crew.

On Sunday, October 16th, the hall is prepared for the event. On Monday, October 17, deliveries are received and sorted by item category. On Tuesday, October 18, items are counted and packed for delivery and on Wednesday, October 19, everything is delivered to agencies.

Contact Kathleen Gage, (248) 661-1708, to volunteer.

Special Thanks!

Presbyterian Women thank the congregation for your support of September's food collection for the Detroit Hunger Program.



Worship & Music

Blessing of the Animals in the 5:05 p.m. worship on October 9



A Blessing of the Animals will be included in the 5:05 p.m. worship service on Sunday, October 9. Weather permitting, this event will take place on the church lawn. All pets are welcome. Last year a horse, a hedge hog and a turtle were all a part of our blessing event!

We ask that all dogs be on a leash, and all other animals be in a carrier, cage, or an aquarium.

If you think your pet might be aggressive toward others, we suggest that you bring a photo of your pet.

For those of you who have a beloved pet that has died, you are invited to bring a photo of your pet, for remembrance. Teddy bears and other stuffed animals, accompanied by their person, are also welcome.

Wednesday 2:42 Book Study: A More Profound Alleluia

Ritual is one of the greatest assets of worship. Liturgical settings such as prayer, psalms, and creedal confession bring comfort and inspiration to congregants, both young and old. However, with time and repetition ritual can turn passé. What is heard and experienced becomes white noise rather than good news. Somewhere between announcements and benediction, the transformational impact of worship is lost. There is too much at stake to let this happen; God in Christ presses in upon us. How might we keep our lamps trimmed? How might our liturgy be renewed to awaken the sleeping spirit among us?

These thoughts form the premise of an upcoming book study in conjunction with Wednesday 2:42. You are invited to join the study, offered Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., October 19 through November 16. This program, which will be held in the First Presbyterian Sanctuary, is made possible through a Worship Renewal Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, with funds provided by the Lilly Endowment. We will be using the book *A More Profound Alleluia*, Leanne Van Dyk, ed., Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005. Copies may be purchased at the church office at a discounted price of \$10.

Each week we will examine a different component of the Reformed order of worship. Each class period will begin with a demonstration of liturgical dance including narrative and musical accompaniment. Following, we will unpack the theological basis for this liturgical exercise equipping participants to experience a more profound alleluia not only in the context of worship but also within the scope of daily living.

Syllabus:

October 19: The Opening of Worship – Trinity (pp. 3-29)

October 26: Confession and Assurance – Sin and Grace (pp. 31-54)

November 2: Proclamation – Revelation, Christology (pp. 55-80)

November 9: Creeds and Prayers – Ecclesiology (pp. 83-108)

November 16: Ending of Worship – Ethics (pp. 133-155)

Facilitators:

Stacie Barrett has 30 years of experience with dance and currently heads First Presbyterian's liturgical dance group. She has performed with Ann Arbor Civic Ballet and currently serves as their Board president. Stacie has been teaching at Sylvia Studio for 12 years. As a child, Stacie developed a spiritual connection to the church through dance, and rediscovered liturgical dance when she joined First Presbyterian's liturgical dance group. Through this group, she has learned the power of improvisation and movement to the Word.

Rev. David Bucholtz is a former member of First Pres, a retired large-animal veterinarian, and now an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. David serves as narrator / lector for liturgical worship at the 5:05 service of worship. David is pastor of Bethel United Church of Christ in Manchester.



Worship & Music (continued)

Nancy Heers teaches liturgical dance in a class called Body and Soul at First Pres, and also teaches Improvisational Modern Dance in the community (Arts in Motion). In addition, Nancy dances with an improvisational modern dance group called Dancers for Life, and with the Center for Spiritual Growth, and the Mother House in Monroe. Nancy has attended workshops of Carla de Sola and the Sacred Dance Guild.

Carol Muehlig is the Associate Director of Music/Organist here at First Pres. She also serves as University Organist and Organ Instructor at Concordia Lutheran University, Ann Arbor. One of her main interests is composition of sacred music. She has collaborated with several theologians and text writers on the creation of new hymnody and liturgical items as well as solos and anthems. Her music has been performed at many churches throughout the United States.

Rev. Brennan Pearson is a Lilly Minister in Residence here at First Presbyterian Church. Brennan holds a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Music from the University of Michigan – Dearborn, and a Master of Divinity from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Brennan will serve as staff liaison for the Calvin Grant at “The Community at 5:05” worship service.

My Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church,

Words can barely express my gratitude to you all for your generous goodbye reception on August 8. The words spoken, the cards, the generous financial gift, all made me feel very appreciated. And how I have valued you over the last sixteen and a half years! No pastoral musician could ever ask for a more supportive congregation. Without your support of the Sacred Music Fund, all of the concerts and programs would not have been possible. Your words of appreciation following a service or concert have meant more than I can express. Your robust singing in worship makes all our creative hymnody possible. For you, for wonderful colleagues, for friendships which will last a lifetime, and for the music, I give thanks to God. The church office has my contact information, and I welcome hearing from you.



God's continued blessings on all of you,
Susan Boggs

Greetings and News from Jenny McDevitt, former Resident Minister

Thank you so much for the wonderful celebration we shared on August 14, my last Sunday serving as one of your pastors. Many of you have waited eagerly to hear of my future plans. I'm very excited to report that as of October 3, I will be serving as Associate Pastor at Bayside Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Yes, I am headed back to the land of sweet tea and southern accents. I hope to put my long down coat in the back of the closet -- but I surely will keep it on hand for winter visits to Michigan! Bayside is a church of 850 members dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with one another and with the community and world around them. As the only associate, my position is generalist in nature with particular attention to pastoral care. I will preach at least once a month and have ongoing opportunities to teach, as well. The church office has my contact information so please keep in touch!

My prayer for you:

May joy and nothing less follow you all the days of your life;

May you be blessed and may you be a blessing;

And may you rest well tonight, secure in the knowledge that the Lord of Light, who has brought you this far already, will lead you, and countless others, all the way home.



The Healthy Church

Samaritan Counseling Center Conference

On Tuesday, November 8, Samaritan Counseling Center is sponsoring an educational conference, "Aging Gracefully through the Decades: Being Proactive." Sessions will be offered for clergy, health care professionals and the general public. The keynote speaker is Lynn Alexander, M.A., a long time advocate for seniors and author of the new book "Caregiver Tsunami". This "tsunami" is upon us with the retirement of 77 million Baby Boomers who live in this country, a quarter of our population. On January 1, 2011, these Boomers began turning 65. Over 7,000 of them will celebrate that birthday each day for the next 18 years! These statistics already are affecting the culture of our families, our community and our congregation. Professional and lay caregivers will learn strategies to use in caring for this growing population. To register for this conference, or receive further information, call (734) 677-0609, or contact Linda Strodman, First Presbyterian Advocate for Samaritan Counseling Services (734) 434-0266.

Samaritan Counseling Services is a non-profit, affordable, faith-sensitive, outpatient mental-health service of licensed professional counselors and psychotherapists that offers individual, couple, child, adolescent, family counseling and psychological testing as well as education and consulting. First Presbyterian Church has had long association with Samaritan and is a financially supporting partner church. Samaritan is currently looking for more representation on the Board of Directors and especially from our congregation, so if you are interested please contact Linda Strodman. Go to Samaritan's website (<http://www.samaritan.cc/>) to learn more about our mission partner.



As a part of First Pres' "Third Thursday Mini-Missions," a group of First Pres volunteers are preparing one of the two annual mailings for Samaritan Counseling Center.

Business of the Congregation

Session Updates - August 17, 2011

Campus Ministry: Elder Brent reported that Rev. David Prentice-Hyers has been hired as the new Director of Campus Ministry. He will begin work on August 22, 2011. Rev. Prentice-Hyers is not new to the ministry, but he brings lots of energy, creativity and commitment to the position.

Pastor/Head of Staff Report: Rev. Dr. Fair reported the Personnel Committee is actively engaged in searching for an interim Director of Music.

It is hoped that the interim will begin by September 1, 2011. She has also stated that she has completed fifty-nine (59) chapel "meet and greets." One of the side benefits of these gatherings is that members are meeting others in their chapels.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-ANN ARBOR

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Congregational Life: Elder McPherson reported that we will be advertising our 185th Anniversary in August on highways digital billboards near Ypsilanti and Whitmore Lake. There will also be pole banners in the parking lot, and a large banner facing Washtenaw. The committee is looking into advertising on billboards around Ann Arbor on a fill-in basis.

Mission: Rev. Gere reported that the committee was seeking Session approval to undertake a trip to Russia (mainly in the Moscow area) from October 18-26, 2011, to explore whether First Pres wants to have a mission presence in Russia, and how such an undertaking could be accomplished. One avenue to be explored is twinning with a Russian Orthodox Church. Eight people will be going on the trip, mostly paying their own way. Necessary funding has been provided by the Jeanne Seeley fund, along with other funds. The motion approving the trip was supported and passed.

Nominating Committee: Elder Hockett reported almost all the positions of Deacon, Elder and Congregational Nominating Committee nominees have been filled. Officer training will begin on October 2, 2011.

Personnel Committee: Elder Brent reported on draft of a new "Policies and Guidelines for the Use of Church Space and Property." The new policy was drafted in response to concerns raised by the church's insurance provider. The proposed policy will prohibit private money-making enterprises, as well as political meetings (which is required to maintain the Church's tax free status with the IRS.)

Special Thanks



Have you noticed a new look to our publications? We have Jane DeLancey to thank! Jane, of DeLancey Design, was first hired to work with our Stewardship Committee last year. However, after our staff said farewell to Jill Crabtree, our former Publications Manager, Jane was hired to help keep First Press published until a new Communications Director could be found. In the meantime, she has done so much more for our church! You have seen her beautiful handiwork on the pole banners in our parking lot, our new First Pres photo directory, the newly redesigned worship bulletin, the laminated pew sheet, the brochure to introduce Dr. Fair in April, and more! You will see Jane's work on the 2012 Stewardship materials, as well. (If Jane's name sounds familiar, it is because her brother and sister-in-law are Dr. John and Barb DeLancey, active First Pres members.) Thanks go to Tom Brandt, an elder at First Pres, who introduced Jane to our staff. Thank you, Jane!



It was great to have Dr. Fair's family here!

Left to right, back row: Fufa and Sam Fullerton (Fairfax's parents), Fairfax, Baker and Arthur Fullerton (her brothers).

Left to right, front row: daughter-in-law Jessie with grandbaby Sadie, Walker, (her son).