

THE CHURCH'S LIFE
News of the First Presbyterian Church
Oregon, Wisconsin
Office: 608.835.3082
www.fpcoregon.org
Email: karenfpc@frontier.com

OCTOBER 2011

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

What does the LORD require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with God. If the Church—all of us together as the body of Christ across the globe—had one mission statement, this could be it.

We as a congregation have spent a lot of time on the building of a building, which has its own purpose in supporting the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church. It has been an exciting few years and continues to be a rich and full time in the life of this congregation—this moving to a new location. And now, as we can celebrate more and more things “falling into place”—the closing on the previous building, the start of a new church school year, finding our way in this new church home—we can begin to refocus our energy on the ministry and mission part and not so much on the building part.

Which is hugely exciting, because this is what we are about as a church. In the coming months, my prayer is that God will open our eyes to new ways we can serve this community. We are the hands and feet of Jesus; and Jesus paid close attention to the lost, lonely, hurting, and sick who needed hospitality, healing, and wholeness. May we see with Jesus' eyes and learn new ways to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God as we reach out in the Oregon community and beyond!

Grace and peace,
Jess

individual or as a family...just sign-up!
Thank you!

THIRD GRADERS RECEIVE BIBLE

Third Graders, Megan Fahey, Trinity McNall, and Autumn Mitchell, received a Bible from the church family during morning worship on September 11. Calvin Williams will receive his bible at a later date. May you grow in faith as you read all of the wonderful stories found in the Bible. Happy reading!

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCTOBER 2!

Christians of all denominations, from all around the world, will gather at the Lord's Table on World Communion Sunday, October 2. The Worship Committee is planning a very special service for this annual event. Please join us in worship on October 2. *It's a great Sunday to bring a friend!*

PEACEMAKING OFFERING to be received on October 2!

OPEN HOUSE – November 6

Sound system? Check! Chairs? Check! House-warming? In the works! An Open House team along with the Session is planning an Open House for November 6 from 1 pm to 3 pm including music, tours, food, and celebration! Mark your calendars now and start thinking of your invite list to come celebrate the new building and the gift First Presbyterian can be to the community.

OCTOBER IS VOLUNTEER MONTH

Everyone is encouraged to bring their calendars to church with them during the month of October. Posted on the bulletin board outside the secretary's office will be schedules for Ushers and Communion Stewards for January – May.

This is YOUR chance to sign up for the jobs YOU would like to do most, on the dates that are most convenient for you. You are encouraged to sign-up as an

CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF AND YOUTH LEADERS COMMISSIONING:

The Church Sunday School staff and Youth Leaders were commissioned during worship on the first Sunday of the program year, September 11. Please take time to say "thank you" to the following people who will be working with our children, youth, and adults this year:

Adult Sunday School Planning

Committee: Steve Johnson, chair, Joy Bernholdt, Wendy Goist Jones, Sue McGuigan, Ralph Stromquist, Chris Weigt with Rev Jess Scholten, adviser.

Youth Team: Tom & Sue Mielke, Doug Brethauer, Char Hanson, Chris Weigt, and Rev Jess Scholten, adviser.

Youth Sunday School Teachers: Judy Belanus, Dave & Char Hanson, Wendy McNall, Connie Jenson, Leanne Hake, Lori Johnson, and Wendy Goist Jones.

FINANCIAL UPDATE –

August 31, 2011

Amount pledged year to date:	\$88,280.00
Pledges received year to date:	\$78,651.20
2011 Per Capita bill:	\$6,877.00
Received to date:	\$3,132.10

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Attention Graduating High School Seniors! If you are a confirmed member of the First Presbyterian Church of

Oregon, Wisconsin and will be enrolling for the first time as a full-time student at an accredited institution of higher learning, with the intention of obtaining a bachelors degree, technical degree, associate degree, or equivalent and enrolled in that institution either within two years of graduating from secondary school or upon separation under honorable conditions from extended active duty (other than for training) with any branch of the U.S. uniformed services, you are eligible to receive a scholarship from our church's College Scholarship Endowment Fund. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Mike Fahey at mfahey@waastaff.com or (835-8557).

CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS COMING...OCTOBER 23rd!

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a Biblical perspective do not regard money that Christians give to their church as merely a way to pay bills. Instead, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's Session has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people

toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our friends and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every friend and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. Even if you feel strongly opposed to completing a card, we urge you to attend. The service will be conducted in a way that will not cause personal embarrassment to anyone who chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members and friends making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday Stewardship team and Session members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and invite everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events! Sincerely, Mike Fahey, Chair Consecration Sunday Stewardship Team

CHURCH PEWS FOR SALE

If you would like to purchase one of the pews from the "old" church, contact the

church office (608-835-3082). The pews are ten feet long and come with a red cushion. The cost is \$200 for members and friends of the church. A pew that has been shortened (including cushion) is on display outside the Pastor's office. Delivery is free in the Oregon area.

HOSPITALIZED

Bev Mares and Alice Hanson have been in the hospital recently. The church family is asked to keep them in its prayers.

SYMPATHY

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the following families who have lost loved ones in recent weeks:

Al & Elvera Phelps on the death of their niece's husband

Mike Fahey & Renee Martell on the death of Mike's aunt

Carol Robert on the death of her sister
ANDREA WILTZIUS BIDS ADIEU
After 2 1/2 years as our choir director, Andrea is moving on to become Director of Contemporary music at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Madison. Her last Sunday with us was September 18. We wish her well in her new assignment and extend a sincere THANKS for sharing her directing and singing talents with us.

TOM MIELKE BECOMES INTERIM CHOIR DIRECTOR

Tom Mielke has graciously agreed to serve as Interim Choir Director through November 6. Tom is currently the Choral Music Director at Middleton High School and we appreciate his willingness to step forward and assume this valuable role in our music program.

CHOIR DIRECTOR POSITION

Session has decided to delay the hiring of a permanent choir director until after the

new Pastor is on board (anticipated in early 2012). This will allow the new Pastor to participate in the hiring process. It is likely that we will actually delay the hiring of the new choir director until after the end of the current church program year (May 20, 2012). Session feels it may put unnecessary pressure on the new Pastor to immediately focus on hiring a choir director rather than focus on general church activities. A final decision will be made when the new Pastor is hired. Tom Mielke has agreed to serve as interim choir director (see separate article) through November 6. A team of choir members and Personnel Committee will be convened immediately to begin the search and hiring process for a second interim choir director to serve from November 7, 2011 potentially through May 20, 2012.

BAPTISM

Rex Jason Rudy, son of Jason and Elizabeth Rudy and brother to Maya, was welcomed into the household of God on September 4 through the Sacrament of Baptism.

IT'S A GIRL!

Nancy and Jim Wallace have a new grandchild to celebrate. Avenley Joy, 6 # 9 oz, was born August 26, to Matt and Jamie Wallace. Avenley is healthy and good natured and very much an answer to prayer! As you may remember, Matt and Jamie lost their daughter, Nevaeh at age 14 months, 2 1/2 years ago, to a severe heart defect. So there is much to be grateful for with the arrival of our new healthy girl! Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

THE ROAD HOME WAS A BIG SUCCESS

FPC hosted 3 families totaling 13 people Saturday night, September 3rd, including 9 children aged 11 months to 12 years old, at St. John's Lutheran. A tasty, hot dinner

was served before the activity time for children. Three people served as overnight hosts and a small army arrived early Sunday morning to load the families' belongings on the U-Haul truck to be taken to the next host church.

Many thanks to the following people: Jess Barmack; Ted and Judy Belanus; Dave and Char Hanson; Nancy Holloway; Dave Mares; Sue McGuigan; Mark, Wendy, Sierra, and Trinity McNall; John and Cindy Mehl; Martha Stromquist; and Nancy Freeman-Wallace.

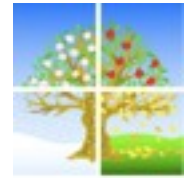
Our next hosting event is scheduled for December 3-4. If you couldn't make it this time, we hope you'll consider helping in December.

YOUTH GROUP SEEKS DONATIONS FOR OUR TROOPS

The FPC High School Youth are collecting donations to be sent to our military troops overseas through the organization, "Honor Our Military, Inc." Donations will be accepted from Sept. 18 through Oct. 9. Items can be left in the red trunk in the church entryway. For more information, contact youth leaders, Tom and Sue Mielke.

Items must be non-perishable and non-aerosol (cans with rubber plugs in the bottom of the can are okay). Items in glass containers will not be accepted. Letters with a return address are encouraged.

The most needed/wanted items are: (those in all CAPS are always in short supply)



❖ Metal canned food items - soups, pastas, fruit, salsas, chip dips, beef stew, cheese spreads, tuna and chicken snack kits, nuts.

❖ Plastic container foods - peanut butter, raisins, microwaveable foods, individual serving fruit cups.

❖ SNACK FOODS (single serving or small preferred, but not essential)- pretzels, peanuts, beef jerky, sausage sticks, Doritos, Fritos, Cheetos, snack crackers, trail mix.

❖ Other Food Items - powdered drink mix, hard candies, cookies, chewing gum.

❖ Hygiene products (please put inside a zip-lock bag)- RAZORS, shampoo, liquid shower soap, small size baby powder, small size foot powder, sunscreen, artificial tears, nasal spray.

❖ Games/Recreation - DVDs, CDs, hand held electronic games, AA and AAA BATTERIES, travel sized board games, current magazines.

❖ Miscellaneous - **SPORT SOCKS**
YOUTH GROUP CHOOSES " FOUR SEASONS IN CHRIST"

FPC Youth will again be meeting in six week units throughout the program year. The theme of "Four Seasons in Christ" was chosen and a different focus will drive each unit. The weekly meetings combine fun, fellowship and faith as our youth lives each seasonal theme.

The fall unit will center around service. Look for our youth being active in serving meals around Madison, organizing care packages for our troops and raking leaves. The Winter unit gives us an opportunity to plan and lead Youth Sunday, slated for February 12, 2012. The Spring we will be about planning the Summer trip. Tom and Sue Mielke are leaders and look forward to an exciting year with our youth.

NEW CHURCH SWEAT EQUITY

In building our new church, a huge volunteer corps has donated an enormous number of hours of labor. These "sweat equity" hours have saved us LOTS of money. Examples of sweat equity include: framing walls, staining exterior trim, hanging plywood for walls, wiring phones, organ speakers, computers and sound system, mounting projection screen, installing sound batten, interior painting, moving and installing appliances, stripping and refinishing altar furniture, refurbishing antique furniture, delivering and installing cabinetry and countertops, constructing risers, unpacking new chairs and moving furnishings from the old to new church. The total so far is an impressive 1370 volunteer hours. In the process of sharing time and talents, new friendships, new skills and real ownership have evolved. People also provided support by praying for Vogel workers and feeding volunteer work crews. There are still projects to complete and opportunities to volunteer.

TUSCALOOSA MISSION TRIP

The John Knox Presbytery is organizing a mission trip to Tuscaloosa, Alabama on November 26 – December 3, 2011. The purpose is to respond to the EF5 tornado that tore through Tuscaloosa. Rebuilding work may include insulating, drywall, roof

repair, framing, painting and working with Habitat for Humanity rebuilding damaged homes. The group will be staying at First Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa which has a hospitality center and a small kitchenette for making breakfast and lunch. Sunday school rooms have been converted to sleeping quarters and showers are available at the YMCA across the street. The cost is \$300 per person which covers travel by bus, hotel lodging to and from, and food and lodging at the church. Some financial assistance may be available.

If interested, please contact Sue McGuigan at 835-7799 or mcgfarm@charter.net. Application **deadline is November 1st**. For more information, visit www.jknox.org.

Note from Sue McGuigan: Our church sent 9 members in 2009 on the mission trip to Texas. Wouldn't it be awesome to send 11 (or more!) in 2011? Please consider joining me on the Alabama trip!"

TUSCALOOSA TRIP GIFTS

Realizing there may be church family members interested in joining the Presbytery mission trip to Tuscaloosa for whom the cost may be prohibitive, TWO very generous members of our congregation have let Pastor Jess know they want to help. Each person has offered to cover one full \$300 trip cost for the upcoming Presbytery Mission trip to Tuscaloosa! If you are able and wishing to go, but finances are tight, please contact Jess for confidential funding. MANY thanks to our anonymous donors!

THANK YOU CELEBRATIONS TEAM

Do you remember – Signing beams?

Helping during the building process and having a meal or snack? Attending a building update? Taking a candle home on Christmas Eve? Taking a turn on the prayer calendar? Seeing the hours recorded on the sweat equity board? Receiving a rock at groundbreaking and bringing it back? Touring the building during construction? Seeing the kids' painting in the storage room?

This is some of what the Celebrations Team planned during the building process to provide information and to have some fun along the way!!! Thanks to the Team members for their dedication: Char Hanson, Wendy McNall, Connie Mitchell, Susan Niebauer, Renee Martell, Cindy Mehl, Nancy Freeman Wallace, Jo Gregory, Jake Johnson, Pam Mullarkey and Judy Belanus.

FROM OUR MAILBAG

Dear First Presbyterian Church,
Thank you for all you did to make David's funeral so wonderful! The kind words, special hugs and everything else was great!
Thanks again,
The Marchant Family

To the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church,
I would like to thank everyone for the kindness and generosity that contributed to the scholarship I received.
I am proud to be part of such an amazing community, and I wish the church and congregation the best of luck with the move to the new building !
Take Care, Shannon Wallace

Karen and Preston Baker wish to thank everyone for the tremendous support given us during our recent health challenges. The prayers, visits, the e-mails, phone calls, cards, and offers of help have all been deeply appreciated.

FOOD PANTRY

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, (Galatians 5:22) ... But the fruit of the stomach is pears, peaches, fruit cocktail, and mandarin oranges.

You can satisfy both cravings during our **MASSIVE FRUIT CAN DRIVE** for the **Brooklyn/Oregon Food Pantry**. Feed your Spirit when you provide food for those who need it in our community. Because there are fewer food drives during the summer months, the Food Pantry shelves are woefully depleted. **Let's line the entire length of our beautiful new hall of windows with stacks of nutritious and delicious canned fruit!**

FPC hosts Food Pantry in the month of October. Please let [Joyce Larson](#) or [Jessica Barmack](#) know if you are interested in helping sort and organize food donations during that month. For more information, go to the **NEW Oregon-Brooklyn Food Pantry website at OBFP.org**

BUILDING UPDATE

- *WE'RE HERE!!!
- *Main St. building – sold!
- *Unpacking – done!
- *Classroom cabinetry – done!
- *Sinks in classrooms – done!
- *Dry erase boards in classrooms – done!
- *New chairs in worship space – done!
- *Screen in worship space – done!
- *Worship space furniture stripped and refinished – done!
- *A million other things – done!
- *Landscaping – in progress!
- *Electrical glitches – working on them!
- *Other details – we'll get to them!
- *Kids running around outside – priceless!

THANKS BE TO GOD!

See you there!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School started again on September 11th. We started our morning with Pastor Jess and went through the whole church praying in each room. We even got to go up in front on the “layer cake”! There are a lot of people involved and a lot happening in our new church. Then we got to break in the kitchen, actually they call it the servery???? It has a stove, a BIG fridge, lots of sinks – looks like a kitchen to us! We made gingerbread churches using lots of frosting and candy; it was a “yummy” project.

Then it was outside! It was fun decorating the sidewalk with sidewalk chalk and blowing bubbles as our church family arrived for worship. BUT what was really fun was looking for frogs and toads – our new church has lots! We know the adults wanted to look too, but didn’t want to get their church shoes dirty. In case you are wondering, we found three toads and one frog. We’ll keep you posted on the count! Until next time....

**Consecration Sunday
October 23!
Join us for worship at 10:30
AM
and for the
Celebration Luncheon
following worship!
Be sure to make your
reservation for the Luncheon
(a catered meal,
not a potluck dinner).
Sign up during Worship or
call the Church office
at 835-3082
by Sunday, October 16.**