

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY:
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SERVE MISSION

How Sweet It Is! *By Jerry Walden, Staff Counselor*

There are moments in each of our lives that make life worth living and puts a little spring in our step. Often, these moments involve grandchildren. Last summer, I had one of those moments. For months, my ten year old grandson begged me to repair his tree house in a standing of woods at the back of our property. Busy schedules, weather and a thousand other excuses had been used until finally we began working on the project. With the project about two-thirds complete, the work stopped as other events took a higher priority. The tree house was functional, but it was not complete. Although my wife would chide me about the unfinished project, my grandson said nothing. Finally, after weeks of waiting, he approached me, hugged me and told me "*if the tree house never gets repaired, I will still love you anyway.*" I must admit that the unconditional acceptance in that young boy's words and manner filled me with emotion. Regardless of my behavior, I was accepted.

In a world where acceptance is often based on our ability to perform, our measure of financial success, our value to the group; unconditional, positive acceptance is lacking. St. Paul reminds us of this kind of acceptance when he wrote to the Romans (5:8) "*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*" This is not to say that ability and success are in some way faulty, nor does it say that we are not to be held accountable for our behaviors. The point is, that an attitude of acceptance and positive outlook improves the quality of most relationships. When we are on the receiving end of positive acceptance, we are intensely aware of this fact. My grandson's unconditional

acceptance not only was emotionally satisfying but it motivated me to positive action.

Since we know that unconditional acceptance is so positively powerful, why is it often difficult to demonstrate to others? The following are four suggestions to improve the quality of your relationships.

- **Look for the best in others**—positive thinking proponents, such as Robert Schuller, remind us that we most often see what we are looking for. Be intentional about noticing positive qualities in others.
- **Don't sweat the small stuff**—although it may not "all" be small stuff, many of the things that cause tension and anxiety are not monumental. Being "grace givers" is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate that Christian principle of the love of God towards others.
- **Draw a distinction between the person and the behavior**—there are times that we must address issues and set boundaries. Make sure that you address the issue in such a way that the other individual is not personally attacked. This is particularly true with children. We may not like the behavior, but we must demonstrate love for the child.
- **Don't just think it, say it**—communication of positive acceptance is critical to healthy relationships. Although our thought may positively impact relationships, it is vital that we communicate our acceptance to those individuals.

Although the tree house is still not finished, there is a plan that now has a high priority. But greater than any tree house, is the positive attitude and improved relationship of a ten year old boy and his grandfather. That is the sweetest gift of all!

Postmaster: Send Address Change to:
First Presbyterian Church of Flint
746 S. Saginaw St.
Flint, MI 48502

Periodical
Postage Paid
Flint, MI
Permit #591120

The Messenger

February 2009 Volume 61, Number 2



Ashes

The essential truth, and gift, of Ash Wednesday is its call to come to terms with ourselves before God. Ash Wednesday says what so much of modern culture denies, namely that we human beings are forever deceiving and justifying ourselves. For those familiar with Alcoholics Anonymous and other Twelve Step programs, Ash Wednesday is like a giant, pull-out-all-the-stops step four. "We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves."

C. S. Lewis said something like, "Hell is a place where everyone has a complaint and makes it ceaselessly." If he is right, much of talk radio can be considered a foretaste of hell. The invitation of Ash Wednesday is a different one. It is to fast from our self-justifications, complaints, blame and accusation of others and take a good, hard, honest look at ourselves. This is as difficult as it is odd in contemporary culture. We are fluent in the language of complaint, but not in the language of confession. We know far better how to play the blame game than how to practice the art of apology.

The writer Janet Malcolm observes, "We are all perpetually smoothing and rearranging reality to conform to our wishes; we lie to others and ourselves constantly, unthinkingly. When occasionally -- and not by dint of our own efforts but under pressure of external events -- we are forced to see things as they are, we are like naked people in a storm." Malcolm is right. We are all "smoothing and rearranging reality to conform to our wishes." Ash Wednesday says, "Give it up. Tell the story truthfully. Name your part in the evils you deplore. Take responsibility."

Ash Wednesday is not only a day for searching self-scrutiny on the part of individuals, but for us as a community of people. What we have most in common as human beings is our sin, our failure to be who we have been made to be and called to be. What we have most in common is our need for mercy.

On **Ash Wednesday, February 25**, we will look at our mortality, our brokenness, and our sins and acknowledge our responsibility in creating our condition. We will write what blocks us from God and turn our confessions to ashes. Because Ash Wednesday is not just about confession, the cross is also proclaimed bringing us the absolution and the opportunity of faithfully following Christ as forgiven disciples.

With this in mind, the rite of ashes on Ash Wednesday is heartily recommended to you as a grand opportunity for repentance and spiritual renewal within the framework of confession and absolution.

A blessed Ash Wednesday observance to all,

John L. Musgrave

Engaged by Christ's love to invite, worship, nurture and serve.

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Ash Wednesday Service
February 25, 6:30pm
for details, see page 3.

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POINTS OF INTEREST

Worship: Sundays, 9:30am
Website: www.fpcf.org
Radio Broadcast: Sundays, 9:30am,
WSNL 600am

Congregational Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation will be held on **February 1st, following the service.** There will be no adult classes so everyone can gather in the Sanctuary to receive the annual reports and next year's budget. The children's classes will continue as scheduled and the youth classes will continue after the meeting.

Church Register

Deaths

Donald Hannula of Calumet, MI (brother of Jane Hannula) deceased on November 11, 2008.

Dan Haggerty of Flint (father of Jane Theodoroff and Devera Schuett) deceased on January 5, 2009.

Mary Slusser of Flint (mother/mother-in-law of Tom and Virginia Fair) deceased on January 5, 2009.

Ernest Petrie of Flushing (brother-in-law of Fran Mackey) deceased on January 1, 2009.

Cornelia Norton of Grand Blanc deceased on January 14, 2009.

Reverend Gordon Charles Timyan of Deland, FL (brother/brother-in-law of Robert & Sue Timyan) deceased on January 16, 2009.

Margaret Cannon of Oshawa, WI (mother of Joan Haley and grandmother of Barb Ehrhart) deceased on January 18, 2009.

Azora Davis of Chelsea (mother of Duff Davis) deceased on January 23, 2009.

Alice Nieman of Flint (mother of Rodney Nieman) deceased on January 24, 2009.

Katherine MacConnell of Charlotte, NC (wife of Robert) deceased on January 27, 2009.

Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. William Seth Lucas (Suzanne Lee) on January 10, 2009 in the Sanctuary.

Gifts

To the Memorial Fund in memory of **Mary Gross** by Mary Christian and Bud and Maxine Powlison; in memory of **Renie Francke** by Nadine Bair; in memory of **Kathryn Louise Kelley** by Kathryn Faner Lobban; in memory of **Robert Vyvyan** by Ray Vyvyan; in memory of **Donald Hannula** (brother of Jane Hannula) by Terry and LaDonna Hannula; in memory of **Josephine 'Marie' Peryma** by Pete and Linda Patrick and Frankie Bonner; in memory of **Nancy Cook** by Marguerite Berry; in honor of their friends at **First Presbyterian Church** by Lynn and Shar Rosser.

To the Bishop Class Stained Glass Window Fund in memory of **Mary Gross** by Lois Hosie and Martha Van Bolt; in memory of **Cornelia Norton** and **Joyce Shinn** by the Bishop Class.

To the Hope Flynn Music Scholarship Fund in honor of **Al and Vonnie Flynn** by Hal Flynn.

To the McKinney Deacon's Ministry Fund as a **Christmas gift for Bob and Helen Robison and David and Peggy Robison** by Mark C. Robison.

To the Gerholz Christian Counseling Ministry Fund in memory of **Jean Calhoun** by Mary Williams Kellogg and Sheila Jean Murchie; in memory of **Andy Avant** by Kathleen Robinson.

February Calendar of Events

WORSHIP SERVICES & SUNDAY EDUCATION CLASSES

Adult Church School, Sundays, 11:00am
 Ash Wednesday Service, Wednesday, February 25, 6:30pm, Sanctuary
 Children's and Youth Education, Sundays, 10:45am
 Contemplative Service, Wednesdays, 6:15pm, Chapel
 Sunday Family Worship, Sundays, 9:30am, Sanctuary

BIBLE STUDY/ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Bible Study, Saturdays, 8:00am, RM 129
 New Members Class, Sunday, February 22, 10:45am, OCR
 Women's Bible Study, Mondays, 7:00pm, RM 129
 Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:30am, RM 129
 Women's Bible Study, Thursdays, 9:15am, RM 211
 Women's Bible Study, Thursdays, 9:45am, RM 207

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Adult Murder Mystery Party, Friday, February 20, 7:00pm, Pipe
 Pipe Souper Bowl Party, Sunday, February 1, 5:30pm, Hobson's Home
 Salem Housing, Saturday, February 14, 8:30am, Offsite
 XYZ Luncheon, Thursday, February 12, 12:00pm, PH

MEETINGS

Administration Team, Monday, February 16, 5:00pm, MP
 Annual Congregational, Sunday, February 1, 10:30am, Sanctuary
 Benevolence Team, Thursday, February 19, 5:00pm, OCR
 Book Club, Thursday, February 12, 10:00am, Library
 Children's Ministry, Monday, February 16, 6:30pm, RR
 Choir Officers, Tuesday, February 3, 5:30pm, OCR
 Communication Task Force, Mondays, 4:00pm, OCR
 Computer Tech Team, Monday, February 9, 5:00pm, RM 129
 Congregational Care, Tuesday, February 10, 4:00pm, OCR
 Gerholz Team, Wednesday, February 18, 6:00pm, OCR
 Grief Recovery, Tuesday, February 24, 1:30pm, MP
 Grief Support, Tuesday, February 10, 1:30pm, MP
 Jane Faner Sweets, Monday, February 23, 8:00am, OCR
 Library Open House, Sunday, February 15, 9:00am, Library
 MFA Team, Tuesday, February 10, 4:30pm, MP
 Session, Tuesday, February 24, 6:00pm, RM 129
 Trustee Board, Tuesday, February 17, 5:00pm, RM 129
 Trustee B & G, Tuesday, February 17, 5:30pm, RM 129
 Trustee Finance, Tuesday, February 17, 5:30pm, RM 129
 Women's Ministry Team, Tuesday, February 3, 6:30pm, MP
 Youth Team, Saturday, February 7, 10:30am, Pipe

Children's Ministry

February Curriculum: "Call the Disciples"

Main Idea

Long ago Jesus called people to be his followers, to learn from him and to teach others. Jesus calls us today to witness the good news that He brought and to share Jesus' story with others.

Scripture: Mark 1:17-18

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

By the end of this unit children will:

- ◆ Discover that the first disciples Jesus called were ordinary fishermen
- ◆ Discover Jesus calls people to follow and be disciples
- ◆ Experience ways we can follow Jesus
- ◆ Discover that Jesus calls people who are less than perfect to be his disciples
- ◆ Experience the story of Jesus calling the first disciples
- ◆ Discover ways of sharing Jesus' story with others
- ◆ Experience learning through art, science, games and computers

Coming soon to a family friendly church near you...

First Parent Date Night! Here is your opportunity to connect with your spouse. We will care for and entertain the kids while you and your loved one enjoy an evening out without the cost of childcare. Now, that's a deal!

- ◆ Join us for an **Adult Murder Mystery Party on Friday, February 20th from 7:00-10:00pm**. Cost is \$10 per person and dinner is provided.
- ◆ Children are invited to join the fun on the third floor for games, art, science, a movie and snacks. RSVP to Jaime Powell, 810.234.8673 ext. 248.

Family Fun Nights! Looking for some quality time with the family? We've got you covered! First Presbyterian Church is excited to be hosting Family Fun Nights for our church body and community to enjoy. We will play together, eat together, and CONNECT with each other. Don't miss out on this one!

These Family Fun Nights will be...

1. Church-wide events that provide fun and engaging activities for children of all ages, as well as parents and other adults.
2. Church-wide events that provide a way to connect our church families, as well as connect us to our community.
3. Church-wide events where you can feel comfortable and are encouraged to invite family, friends and neighbors.

Dates and times coming soon to a family friendly church near you! Have the perfect place for an event? Have a great idea for families? Prefer to volunteer for these events? Contact Jaime Powell 810.234.8673 x248 to be a part of this special ministry.

Library Ministry

The Library Team is hosting its annual open house on **February 15th from 9:00-11:30am** in the Library. Please stop by and enjoy some red punch and cookies and help us to celebrate another successful year of the Library Ministry. A library team member will be there to greet you and serve your punch. All are welcome.

Sunday Morning Valet Parking

Starting **Sunday, February 1st**, we will offer Valet parking for *those who have the need*. We understand there are people who are uncomfortable trying to walk across the parking lot with snow and ice. As a result, they may not come to church. Let us help! Each Sunday, we will have two people here willing to park your car for you before church starts and then bring it to you when you want to leave.

How it will work is that you drive up to the main doors under the portico, hand your keys to one of the valet attendants and they will park your car as you watch. They will, then, bring your keys back to you so you will have them should you need to leave early. Either after the service or after Sunday school, you just go to the main doors, hand your keys to the valet attendant, tell them where you are parked and they will bring your car to you.

This service is available at these times.
9:00-9:20am (to allow time to get to the service)
10:30-10:50am (to allow time to get to Sunday school)
12:00-12:20pm (for those who attended Sunday school)

FPCF is continuously looking for ways to reach out to let everyone truly know we value their presence.

Heart Matters by Frankie Bonner, RN

At First Church we are blessed with many resources, and shortly we will be making an addition to our emergency response tool box by installing a third Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on the second floor. This will be located in the hallway near the elevator which will make it easier to find in an emergency and provide faster access for both the Music Ministry and the Children's Ministry. This has been made possible by donations from the XYZ trip groups, the Deacons and Congregational Care donors.

The first AED we acquired is installed in a cabinet across from the elevator, near the library, on the wall outside of the prayer room. It is centrally located for ease of use for the Sanctuary and the Chapel as well as the Gerholz Center, Parish Hall and Pipe. This defibrillator is dedicated for use in the building and on the grounds and does not leave the premises.

We have another AED located inside the Congregational Care office. This defibrillator may be taken off-site for church sponsored trips, such as those offered by our Older Adult Ministry (XYZ), or other church-sponsored events.

Several staff members and ushers as well as Children's team members have been trained in Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and AED use. We will be holding more trainings and encourage those in other ministries to attend.

If you should witness a health problem requiring attention, please feel free to assist other responders by helping to gather emergency response equipment. A wheeled first aid kit can be found in the usher's room in the North East corner of the Great Hall (Narthex). There is a first aid sign on that door. Get the first aid kit and the AED and bring it to the site where needed.

If an ambulance is required, a call to 911 can be made at the Welcome Desk, from the usher's room or from most offices. When calling 911, it is best to make certain that you have reached Flint or Genesee County 911 response, not an outside location, and to stay on the line to provide further directions if needed. If using a cell phone to contact 911 be sure to stay on the line. We know we can count on our family of faith to help out in an emergency. These tips and tools will make it easier for us to respond in the safest way.

*I have a song deep in my heart,
And only I can hear it...
If I take time and listen very hard,
I can still hear my Heartsong.
It makes me feel happy...
Happy like thinking about
going to heaven when I die.
My Heartsong sounds like this-
I love you! I love you!...*

Excerpt from *Journey Through Heartsongs* by Mattie JT Stepanek, VSP Books 2001

Adult Murder Mystery Party

You are invited to a night of mystery and mayhem in the wild west.

Adult Murder Mystery Party
Friday, February 20th from 7:00-10:00pm in the Pipe.
Cost is \$10 per person and dinner is provided.
Please call the church office to RSVP by February 12th.

Extra Bonus...FREE childcare! Children are invited to join the fun on the third floor for games, art, science, a movie and snacks. Questions? Contact Jaime Powell or Jim Pope at 810.234.8673.



J.S. Bach: Music of Life and Death

As part of its "faith-art-community" initiatives, the Music and Fine Arts Department and the Flint Festival Chorus will present the symposium Cantatas and Commentary on February 28th from 9:30am-12:30pm, at First Presbyterian. This event is offered free of charge to the community. Noted Bach scholar and theologian, Dr. Mark Bangert will guide a morning of presentation, discussion and conversation related to two sacred choral masterpieces by J.S. Bach.

Although Dr. Banger is a renowned scholar, his presentation is geared toward the lay person and is intended to build understanding of the works within the worship context which inspired them. The two works are the *St. John Passion* and *Cantata 106*. Both works will be performed in their entirety here at the church in the weeks following the symposium. Dr. Bangert's workshop will be supported by members of the performing ensembles providing musical examples that illustrate the points of the discussion.

On March 6th, the Flint Festival Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Bradley Bloom, will present a ticketed performance of Bach's *Passion according to St. John*. On March 15th The FPC chamber choir will present Bach's *Cantata 106, Gottes Zeit Ist die Allerbest Zeit*. Mark Riddles will conduct. There will be no admission charge for the cantata program. These works can be a profound part of your Lenten season. Plan now to attend the symposium and the concerts.



Music Ministry

Music Program

If you are a music lover, you will want to put February 8, 2009 on your calendar. At 3:00pm in the Sanctuary our organist, Brenda Portman, will present a varied and energetic program of great organ music through the centuries. It is a common misconception that the pipe organ is only used for hymn-singing. The organ also has a huge repertoire of concert and symphonic music that is meant to show off the full potential of the instrument.

Almost exactly 200 years after the birth of Felix Mendelssohn (born Feb. 3, 1809), the opening and closing pieces will be Mendelssohn's 1st and 4th Organ Sonatas. Also on the program, will be works by J. S. Bach, César Franck, Daniel Gawthrop and Pamela Decker. You will hear both old and new, serious and humorous, lyrical and vivacious, composers of late and those who are still living; there will be something for everyone and you won't want to miss it!

Sledding Party at the Koegel's

Are you in need of a day to relax and fellowship? Or are you ready for sledding, ice skating and sitting by the fire with a cup of hot chocolate? Please join us for a fun filled day. The big pot of soup will be on! Join us on Saturday, February 7th, 2009 from noon - 4:00pm at John and Lisa Koegel's home (1440 Briarcliffe Dr., Flint, 810.732.0709). Come when you can and leave when you must. Don't forget your sleds, skates and a dish to pass.

New Member's Class

Following the worship service on February 22nd, March 1st and 8th, an Inquirers/New Members meeting will be held. This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about First Presbyterian, reformed faith and full membership into the church. Please call the church office to register at 810.234.8673.

Worship Mission

Sunday Morning Worship

February 1, 2009
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28 "All Right, Who's In Charge Here?"
John L. Musgrave

February 15, 2009
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Kings 5:1-14; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45
"Are You Looking For A Sign?"
Steve Baillie

February 8, 2009
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 40:21-31; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
Paul Ytterock

February 22, 2009
Transfiguration of the Lord
2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
"Spiritual 20/20"
John L. Musgrave

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday begins the most important time of the year for Christians, the celebration of the central event of our faith: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Easter cycle begins with ashes, the ashes of our mortality and sins. To prepare for Christ's Resurrection, we start with admitting our sins and our mortality so that we can be open to forgiveness and dependency on God. Come Wednesday, February 25 at 6:30pm to begin the journey. The service will provide opportunity for repentance, ashes, communion and dedication to following Christ's walk to Jerusalem. Before the service, there will be a simple soup dinner. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children and \$18 per family.

Music Ministry

FPC Children's Choirs: A Wednesday Oasis

What happens on Wednesday afternoon at First Presbyterian Church?

By 4:30pm, children in grades K-6 from all over Genesee County gather in their snack rooms with helpful choir moms. Rehearsals for Cherub, Carol or Cantus Choir begin very soon after. For the next hour, these choristers learn to use their voices to worship God.

In the rehearsals, musical talents and skills are nurtured. Cherub and Carol Choirs will find their singing voices and Cantus Choir will learn to sing two-part music. They will prepare anthems to sing in Sunday worship and special music events. Choristers also sing hymns, play musical games, learn to read music, develop vocal and other music skills and use Orff instruments. The rehearsals also provide time for the choristers to share friendships, fellowship and spiritual growth.

An "oasis", by definition, is a fertile or green area in an arid region or something providing relief from routine. The First Presbyterian Music and Fine Arts Ministry hopes to provide an "oasis" for our children, apart from their everyday world. We hope to nurture their talents and interests, but most importantly, we hope to help them know that God loves them and will always be with them.

Spiritual Enrichment Opportunities

**Sunday Morning Adult Education
Winter 2009**
Sunday Mornings, 11:00am – 12:00pm

Who's Who in the Bible
Led by Steve Baillie & guest presenters in Room 211

Celebration of Discipline
Led by Paul Ytterrock in the Chapel

**Life Lessons from the Mount:
The Sermon on the Mount**
Led by Pete Hutchison in Room 129

Wednesdays at First
Wednesday Evenings, 6:45 – 7:30pm

Gospel of Mark
Led by Dr. John Musgrave in Room 129

Nooma
Led by Jim Pope and Paul Ytterrock in the Memorial Parlor

Men's Ministry Bible Study

Take It To The Limit (How To Get The Most Out Of Life)—Come Back From The Edge... Overloaded? Maxed out? Our culture encourages us to live as if we have no limits. So we fill up our schedules and empty our bank accounts. We do as much as we can, spend as much as we can and acquire as much as we can; all in an effort to get as much as we can out of life.

New Class!
In this six week DVD study, Andy Stanley explains that the secret to getting more out of life is not doing more, but doing less. We must learn to create margins to live the life God intended for us.

All our lives are so busy, so filled, we hardly know what to do next, and yet we don't feel fulfilled. Come and let us learn together how to truly get the most out of life without life taking the most out of us. This class begins February 7 and is held on Saturdays with coffee fellowship from 8:00 – 8:30am and Bible study from 8:30 – 9:30am.

Youth Ministry



Sundays at the Pipe:
Neighborhood Breakfast at 8:00am
Help serve the community on Sunday mornings.
Good Morning Pipers at 10:45am in the Pipe.
This is a time for fellowship.

Educational Hour, 11:00am-12:00pm
Senior High students meet in the Pipe Green Room. Junior High students will meet in the Pipe Class Room.

Chapel Choir, 5:45 – 6:45pm, meets every Sunday in the choir room on the second floor.

Pipe, 7:00 – 8:30pm, join us each week for a time of food, fellowship, music, videos and relevant teaching.

Wednesdays at the Pipe:

Pipe Praise Band Practice is in the Pipe. Junior High, 5:30 – 7:00pm and Senior High, 7:00 – 9:00pm.

Contemplative Service in the Chapel at 6:15pm.

Junior High Ladies Small Group, 6:15 – 7:30pm in the Pipe Green Room with Janeen Reigle.

Other Meetings and Events:

Sr. High Ladies Small Group meets on Saturdays at 1:00pm at Borders with Kim Skaff.

Young Men's Small Group, Thursdays, 7:00pm at Jim Pope's home (3509 Norwood Dr., Flint).

Salem Housing, we meet on the second Saturday of each month from 8:30am-12:30pm. This month, we meet on February 14th.

Youth Team meets on Saturday, February 7th from 10:30am – 12:30pm in the Pipe.

Souper Bowl Sundae Party, February 1st at the Hobson's (526 Morrish Rd, Flushing) at 5:30pm. If you need a ride please let Jim Pope know and meet at the church at 5:30pm. There will be basketball, sledding and other activities.

Sr. High Retreat at Springhill from February 6th-8th. Cost is \$95. See the Pipe for a brochure and to sign-up.

XYZ

Birthday Celebration

Thursday, February 12th (note the date change)
Come and celebrate your birthday. We will also be extending an invitation to members of Community Presbyterian Church. Bring a wrapped birthday present. Don't spend more than \$10.00. We will play a very fun "pass the present" game. There will be a special birthday cake dessert and lunch will be our treat. Please RSVP to the church office by **Tuesday, February 10th**.

Day Trip to Detroit Institute of Arts

Thursday, March 19th (note the date change)

See special exhibit:
American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell from 10:00am -12:30pm; lunch at the Institute Café and then on to Pewabic Pottery Store.
Cost is \$62.00 per person which includes motor coach transportation, admission to DIA & Norman Rockwell Exhibit, \$10.00 lunch voucher and a stop at Pewabic Pottery Store. Your payment is your reservation and is due no later than **February 10, 2009**. Limit 30 seats.

Spring Trip to Azalea Festival in Norfolk, Virginia

April 29-May 4, 2009

Enjoy the fabulous pageantry of Norfolk's Azalea Festival parade from your reserved seat. Cost is \$694 per person and includes:

- Spirit of Norfolk Dinner Cruise with entertainment
- Reserved seats for Azalea Festival Grand Parade
- Norfolk Naval Base Tour
- Norfolk Botanical Gardens Tram Tour
- Hampton Roads Naval Museum
- USS Wisconsin Battleship
- NATOfest Activities
- Virginia International Tattoo Show (features Scottish marching bands and drill teams from all over the world)
- Visit to Waterside Complex
- Tour of Colonial Williamsburg
- Evening Entertainment

To make your reservation, make a deposit of \$100.00 payable to First Presbyterian Church and mail to Lee Doll. Balance is due by **March 9th**.

The Creation Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio
June 10-11, 2009

The Creation Museum is a the state-of-the-art, 70,000 square foot museum that brings the pages of the Bible to life, casting its characters and animals in dynamic form and placing them in familiar settings. Adam and Eve live in the Garden of Eden. Children play and dinosaurs roam near

Eden's Rivers. The serpent coils cunningly in the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Majestic murals, great masterpieces brimming with pulsating colors and details provide a backdrop for many of the settings. Cost is \$219 per person and includes transportation, overnight lodging at Holiday Inn, admission to Creation Museum & Planetarium, 5 course family style Italian dinner at Buca di Beppo and explore and shop at Cabella's on our way home. To make your reservation you need a deposit of \$75, check made payable to First Presbyterian Church and mail to Lee Doll. Balance is due by April 13th. Limit of 30 seats.

New Opportunity

May 2009

Our church has so many opportunities to learn and grow together as a community of faith. Sometimes, these opportunities are in conflict with each other. Women's Ministry has decided not to coordinate the registration for the Win-some Women Retreat this year. Instead, we would like to encourage you to be a part of the Jubilate celebration the week of **May 10th**. This will be a wonderful time for gathering as a whole church for a variety of opportunities. One of the highlights of the week will be on **Wednesday, May 13** when the Jane Faner Sweers Foundation will sponsor Carol Kent, a popular international public speaker. Carol has a unique faith story to share with all of us. Her testimony will challenge and encourage you in your own journey of faith.

The week of **May 10th** promises to be a wonderful week of learning and celebration. Watch for more information in the coming months.