

# The Messenger

September 2009 Volume 61, Number 9



## Promises Fulfilled

Our theme this fall is *Promises Fulfilled*. In this season of harvest and home-coming to church and school, we are reminded of how faithful God is to us.

We can truly declare that God's promise to always be with us is being fulfilled each day. We see God's presence in our worship, our music, our children's faces, the actions of our youth, the caring for the community through service and volunteering, our adults studying His word and the comforting of the ill and grieving. God is with us.

God's promise to hear our prayers and to provide for our needs is being fulfilled. Every ministry of the church is prospering for the glory of God.

God's promise to give us life is being fulfilled as we find meaning in our calling to discipleship. Abundant life is present as we become good stewards, serve the community and those in need, follow Christ in self-giving and worship the Triune God. Throughout the fall, we will be reminded of *Promises Fulfilled*. September has several events that will start us in the right direction:

### Faith In Flint

**Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

This is an opportunity to serve the community in God's name. There will be work projects for all ages and capabilities to make a difference in Flint. Flint is remaking itself. First Presbyterian Church is a vital part of the rejuvenation.

### Homecoming Festival Worship

**Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:30am Worship with First Brass and Chancel Choir
- 10:45am Faith In Flint parade down Saginaw St. with the Scottish Pipe Band
- 11:00am Lunch along the river with Scottish dancing and music  
(Dress comfortably for the walk and picnic)

### Wednesdays at First

**Begins September 16<sup>th</sup>**

- 4:45pm Choir School K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 5:45pm Dinner and Fellowship
- 6:30pm Contemplative Worship in the Chapel

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

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## POINTS OF INTEREST

- Worship: Sundays, 9:30am
- Website: [www.fpcf.org](http://www.fpcf.org)
- Radio Broadcast: Sundays, 9:30am, WSNL 600am

## Church Office Hours

The church office will be closed on **Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** in recognition of Labor Day. Beginning on **Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**, the church office hours will be 8:30am-4:30pm.

## Newsletter Notice

As part of the ongoing mission to reduce costs associated with our paper communications, we will **no longer** be sending our publications **out-of-state** beginning in October. If you would like to continue to receive them, please call or email the church with your email address. If you spend time in a second home, you will continue to receive our publications all year. Thank you for your help.

## Church Register

### Births

Jaxon Douglas Meyers, son of Kim and Douglas Meyers and grandson of Carol and Dale Hostetler born in August 2009.

### Deaths

Jay Blue of Grand Blanc (uncle of Linda & Greg Blue) on August 1, 2009.

Lila Werner of Clio (mother of Waina Schofer and grandmother of Kerry Monzo) on August 2, 2009.

Earl Berry of South Bend, IN (father of Pam Peck) on August 3, 2009.

Ruth Cordell of Flint (wife of Richard Cordell) on August 3, 2009.

Phyllis Brand of Flint (mother of Elizabeth Davis) on August 4, 2009.

Melford Wiens of Flint (husband of Becky Wiens) on August 7, 2009.

Stephen Boyes of Chicago, IL (son of Rod & Judy Boyes) on August 11, 2009.

Eugene Kitchen of Durand (father of Lynn Hartley) on August 20, 2009.

Linda Hoffine of Tarson Springs, FL (wife of Roger Hoffine) on August 22, 2009.

### Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Coffman (Natalie Galer) on August 8, 2009 in the Sanctuary.

### Gifts

To the Memorial Fund in memory of **Dorothy Whisner** by Frank and Joyce Young; in memory of **Mary Anne Sumner** by Mr. and Mrs. Eino Rajala; in memory of **Dr. Richard Plymale** by Richard and Sara LeMoyné; in memory of **Frances Crosby** (sister of Helene Streich) by Frank and Joyce Young.

To the Hope Flynn Music Scholarship Fund in memory of **Joan Crick, Paul Diller** (brother of Ilene Greening), **Renie Francke, Paul Gerbig** (grandfather of Jennifer Hatch), **Mary Gross, Betty Messenger, Josephine Peryma** (grandmother of Jaime Powell), **Ernest Petrie** (brother of Fran Mackey), **Kathryn Salim** (mother of Patricia Chonich), and **Laura Schautz** (mother-in-law of Frankie Bonner) by Jean Craig.

To the Deacon's Breakfast Fund in memory of **Constance Henry** by Audrey Lattie, Don and Dee Lada, Nancy Hawkins and Dorothy and Michael, Dianne McGrath, Jim and Carol Hutchison, Jerry and Janet Koontz, Zen, Mark, Joe, and Maggie Malecha, Dr. Michael and Marcia Giacalone, Jr., John and Madeline O'Neill, Steven and Barbara Smith, Dennis Karas, Carol Haller-Wedel, Robert and Ruth DeMaria, Mary Lynne Hartwell, Deborah Jakeway, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Merrill, Walt Babcock, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Babcock, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Babcock, Mr. and Mrs. Walt Babcock, Robert Babcock and Mary, Donnalee Matthias, Michael and Tamie Prevette, Richard and Wanda Cooley, Norman and Mary Jo Payne, and George

W. Baldwin; in memory of **Ruth Cordell** by Don and Dee Lada. To the Gerholz Christian Counseling Ministry Fund in memory of **Andy Avant** by Kathleen Robinson.

To the Children's Music Enrichment Fund in memory of **Jessica Lirones-Flayer** by Charles and Kathryn Hollitt.

To the Congregational Care Fund in memory of **Glen Arndt's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday** by Doris Dutcher; in honor of **Ann Young** by David and Jeanette Hall.

To the Dr. David E. Molyneaux Scholarship Fund in memory of **Dr. David E. Molyneaux** by Mary and Roger Stroup.

To the Jane Faner Sweers Faith Foundation in honor of **Kathryn Lobban's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday** by Keith and Anne Baldwin.

To the Children's Ministry Fund in memory of **Marjorie Maxson** by Thomas and Linda Baes.

To the Bishop Class Stained Glass Window Fund in memory of **Earl Berry** by the Bishop Class.

## September Worship and Meetings

### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Family Worship, Sundays, 9:30am, Sanctuary

### BIBLE STUDY/ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Church School Sundays, 11:00am

College and Career, Monday, September 14, 5:00pm, Pipe

Men's Ministry Bible Study, Saturdays, 8:00am, Rm 129

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

Youth and Church School, Sundays, 10:45am, Pipe

### EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Homecoming Celebration, Sunday, September 13, 9:30am

Salem Housing, Saturday, September 12, 8:30am, Offsite

### MEETINGS

Administration Team, Monday, September 21, 5:00pm, MP

Children' Ministry, Tuesday, September 15, 6:00pm, CRR

Comm. Task Force, Monday, September 14 & 28, 4:00pm, OCR

Computer Tech Team, Monday, September 14, 5:00pm, OCR

Congregational Care, Tuesday, September 8, 4:00pm, OCR

Gerholz Team, Wednesday, September 16, 6:00pm, OCR

Grief Support, Tuesday, September 8, 1:30pm, MP

Health Council, Tuesday, September 8, 6:00pm, OCR

Library Team, Monday, September 14, 10:30am, Library

MFA Team, Tuesday, September 8, 4:30pm, MP

Session, Tuesday, September 22, 6:00pm, Rm 129

Shalom Team, Tuesday, September 1, 5:30pm, MP

Trustee Board, Tuesday, September 15, 5:00pm, Rm 129

Trustee B & G, Tuesday, September 15, 5:30pm, Rm 129

Trustee Finance, Tuesday, September 15, 5:30pm, Rm 129

Women's Ministry Team, Tuesday, September 15, 6:30pm, MP

## Music and Fine Arts

### Chancel Choir Opens Its Doors

The Chancel Choir opens the doors to a new year and new members. Rehearsals are on **Thursdays from 7:00-9:00pm** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Choir Room. First up for the choir is First Presbyterian's Homecoming Festival Sunday which will feature music for choir, organ, brass and percussion. The Choir is open to all singers college age and older. The Chancel Choir is a richly rewarding ministry that offers the opportunity to lead in worship on a regular basis. The doors are open. Rehearsals have started.

### Choir School

Choir School will launch its new year on **Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**. Choir School (K through grade 6) will meet from 4:45 – 5:45pm throughout the school year. A family dinner is available in the Parish Hall following choir (registration/reservation suggested). The Choir School has offered a distinguished, Christian music curriculum in Genesee County for almost a century. Its excellence helps shape young lives. We welcome not only church members but children from all over the region. An information/registration/orientation meeting is scheduled in the Parish Hall at **5:00pm on September 13<sup>th</sup>**.

### Youth Chorale Expands

First Presbyterian Church is expanding the aim of its youth music ministry to include all of Genesee County. The Youth Chorale (grades 7-12) will meet each **Sunday at 5:45pm beginning September 27**. To signal our new expanded aim, the first rehearsal will be held at the UM-Flint Campus. Subsequent rehearsals will be held here at the church, with occasional rehearsals in other locations. Active research this past year has revealed a strong sense of need for such a chorale in churches throughout the area. Membership is not restricted to church members and youth from the entire region are welcome regardless of church membership or affiliation. A full presentation of Youth Chorale information will be offered at the **September 13<sup>th</sup>** information meeting at **5:00pm** in the Parish Hall.

### Handbell Ensembles

Cloister and Concert Handbell Choirs will resume rehearsals in September. Specific dates will be published soon. Our worship music will benefit from an increased presence of our handbell ensembles. Also, a group of worship carilloneurs will be developed to announce worship and enhance various elements throughout the service. Laurie Mitchell led the development of the carilloneurs. This is an excellent opportunity for an introductory experience with handbells. Contact Laurie or the Music and Fine Arts Office if interested.

# Worship Mission

## Sunday Morning Worship

September 6, 2009  
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23;  
James 2:1-10, 14-17;  
Mark 7:24-37  
Paul Ytterrock

September 20, 2009  
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Proverbs 31:10-31; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37  
"Winning by Being Last"  
John L. Musgrave

September 13, 2009  
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Proverbs 1:20-33; James 3:1-12; 14-17 Mark 8:27-38  
"Jesus Asks, 'Who do you say I am?'"  
John L. Musgrave

September 27, 2009  
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22;  
James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50  
"Be at Peace With One Another"  
John L. Musgrave

## September Usher Team

Head Usher: Bob Nichols; Usher Team: Anne Baldwin, Keith Baldwin, Bill Crick, Kristen Haering, Linda Haering, Betty Harris, Joe Higgins, Patti Higgins, and Micki Hoffman.

## Contemplative Service

Wednesdays 6:30pm

Beginning September 16<sup>th</sup>

Leave the rush of the world mid-week and join the community of faith in contemplative worship helping us to center on God. This service filled with music, silence, and prayer will lift our hearts to God opening the door for Him to rejuvenate and to restore us. This year the services will follow a five week cycle. Every service will have music that leads us in contemplation, silence that helps us reflect, scripture that guides us, and prayer that helps us talk with and listen to God. On **September 16<sup>th</sup>**, the theme will be praise and adoration with additional instruments leading us. On **September 23<sup>rd</sup>**, confession will be our emphasis with water cleansing us. **September 30<sup>th</sup>**, will center in on meditation and prayer lifted up as incense to God. Healing and wholeness will be the theme on **October 7<sup>th</sup>** following the scripture encouragement for anointing with oil. The cycle will be completed with Communion on **October 14<sup>th</sup>**. Come at **5:45pm** for dinner and fellowship and then be fed spiritually in worship at **6:30pm**.

## Music and Fine Arts

Noye's Fludde (Noah's Flood): MUSICAL  
Offers Opportunities to Participate

First Presbyterian Church's 2010 Jubilate Week will feature a production of Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde*. This production will provide opportunities for participation for **all ages, all ability levels** and requires a very wide range of skills. Described as a Chancel Opera, Noye's Fludde is a setting of one of the Chester Miracle Plays which were acted out by townsfolk for religious holidays. Interweaving drama and comedy, original music and familiar hymns, professional and amateur performers, children, youth, adults, church members and people from the community, *the musical* offers a fresh and entertaining retelling of the Bible Story of Noah and the Great Flood. Music and Fine Arts is in the process of organizing the *production team* and hopes that you would like to participate. **Please let us know if you would like to be considered for the production team or would like to suggest someone for the team.** In keeping with its original community focus, participation in our production will be open to all in the community who wish to participate.

## Adult Education

### Sunday Mornings

#### Rescuing John Calvin

This year is the 500<sup>th</sup> birthday of John Calvin. Calvin, in many ways, is the father of Reformed Faith. His contribution to education, politics, economics, arts, and theology has greatly affected Western Culture. John Calvin was responding to the Medieval Church. As with many initiators of new thought, the followers of John Calvin pushed some of his ideas to the extreme creating a misunderstanding of Calvin. This Sunday morning class will be led by John Musgrave, Paul Ytterrock, and Mark Riddles in the Chapel.

- ◆ **September 20<sup>th</sup>** - Rescuing John Calvin on Communion facilitated by John Musgrave
- ◆ **September 27<sup>th</sup>** - Rescuing John Calvin on Depravity facilitated by Paul Ytterrock
- ◆ **October 4<sup>th</sup>** - Rescuing John Calvin on Predestination facilitated by John Musgrave
- ◆ **October 11<sup>th</sup>** - Rescuing John Calvin on Politics/Economy facilitated by Paul Ytterrock
- ◆ **October 18<sup>th</sup>** - Rescuing John Calvin on the Arts facilitated by Mark Riddles

### Who's Who in Church History

This class is an expansion of the very popular class we had last year. This year, we will not only cover people of the Bible, but also those who have greatly influenced our faith since the Scriptures were written. Each week we will add someone new with a different leader guiding the class. This makes each

week new, fresh and interesting. It also allows you to feel comfortable to stop in even if you have not been able to come each week. Come and learn more about how so many lives have been guided by God and how God wants to guide you. Held in Room 211. Facilitated by Steve Baillie

### Return to the Mount

The Bishop Class will be continuing a study of the *Sermon on the Mount*. Having completed the inspirational Beatitudes in the spring, we will move on to continue our study into what has been called an encapsulation of Jesus' teachings. We will view these lessons through a 21<sup>st</sup> century lens in an effort to glean what it is that God is teaching His followers today. We will employ an interactive style in an effort to bring forth the best thinking of the entire class, while enjoying one another's company. Held in Room 129. Facilitated by Pete Hutchison

### Mondays

#### The Psalms

This is a Study of God's Order, Covenant and Character that give us "Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow". Throughout history, great men of God from Augustine and Luther to C.S. Lewis have published their reflections on this collection of Hebrew poetry. This class will approach the Psalms from a different perspective, the *covenantal perspective*, which shows us the overarching unity in the rich variety of experiences as portrayed by the psalmists. The specific Psalms that we study will present God to us in the glory of His being, the sum total of His perfection, the majesty of His operations, and the principles and patterns of His dealings with man. We will also observe the patterns of man's response to God and his interaction with his fellow man in a wide range of circumstances. The class will study 16 different Psalms during the two eight-week sessions. The first session will begin on **Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**, from **10:30am-12:00pm**. Held in Room 129. Facilitated by Al Powell

## Men's Bible Study

*Twisting the Truth*: a DVD series with Andy Stanley. Common but deadly deceptions impact you every day. They can twist your thinking in ways you'd never expect and leave you with a life you never imagined. Your ability to recognize them can spell the difference between happiness and the loss of all you hold dear. Do you see them? In this six-session video, Andy Stanley exposes some common ways God's truth gets twisted. Each one has the potential to destroy your relationships, cloud your decisions, and distort your perception of Him. This study will help us discover the ways the truth gets twisted in our lives and culture and, more importantly, how we can recognize and overcome them. Class begins on **Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>** with coffee fellowship from **8:00-8:30am** and class at **8:30am**. Held in Room 129. Facilitated by Steve Baillie.

## Women's Bible Studies

When you read the Bible, you encounter God. God reveals himself in the person of Jesus Christ to men and women of faith. God longs to be in relationship with us and for us to know him more deeply. In a women's small group Bible study you will come to know God more intimately as you study His Word and share your experiences with women of all ages. Please consider joining one of our studies this fall. If there is not a time that is convenient consider starting a small group of your own. Contact Kim Skaff with questions or to sign up, 234-8673 or [kskaff@fpcf.org](mailto:kskaff@fpcf.org).

### *Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman*

By Beth Moore

Monday evenings at 7:00pm

Room 129

Beginning September 14<sup>th</sup>

Facilitated by Peggy Anderson

Thursday mornings at 9:15am

Room 211

Beginning September 17<sup>th</sup>

Facilitated by Kim Skaff

Child care provided

### *A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place*

By Beth Moore

Wednesday mornings at 10:30am

Room 129

Beginning September 16<sup>th</sup>

Facilitated by Kaye Hollitt and Carol Hostetler

Child care provided

### *Romans: The Power of God*

Thursday mornings at 9:45am

Room 207

Beginning September 17<sup>th</sup>

Facilitated by Corinne Kage

Child care provided

## Thank You

A big thank you to all of the people who helped to make the Back to the Bricks concession such a success. This was a fine time to show the church with the tours conducted by the members at the Welcome Desk. The weather was outstanding and downtown Flint and First Presbyterian were shown in their finest. May God bless you all and thank you.

*The Deacons*

## Women's Fall Retreat

### *Journeys, Detours and Grace*

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."*

Jeremiah 29:11-13

Don't miss this opportunity to explore and reflect together on where we've been, where we are, and where the journey will ultimately lead as we wind our ways down our individual spiritual paths. Using Jeremiah 29:11-13 as our Scriptural base, speaker Marcy Lawless will lead us through three sessions with time to discuss and reflect.

Join us for:

- ◆ *Journeys* (Session One), where we will explore our personal and collective *Autobiographies of Grace*—where we've gone and where God has intersected us along the way.
- ◆ *Detours* (Session Two), looking at the starts and stops, the u-turns and dead ends, the dents & bruises of our crashes and derailments, the changes which have occurred to the lives we had planned.
- ◆ *Grace* (Session Three), where we'll rejoice in the 'Amazing Grace' received and search our lives to see where we can be extenders of our Lord's grace to those around us.

Best of all, we'll be taking this particular sojourn together, as we search our individual paths and see anew God's presence throughout—the Master Planner and Tour Guide who was and is up ahead, leading the way; sometimes behind, picking up the pieces, and always, always, by our side, drawing us close. Our Lord— leading and cheering and beckoning us to come nearer; sometimes we recognize His presence and sometimes fit is only in the rear-view mirror that we realize He has been there all along.

Join us on the journey at this year's Women's Fall Retreat on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-3:30pm. The cost is \$30 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Your presence is invited and encouraged, for it is within the unity of sharing, caring, laughing, crying, singing and praying that we find fellowship with each other in the Lord, Jesus Christ.

## Directories

Directories have been mailed to those of you who had your picture taken. If you did not get your picture taken and would like a directory, we have a few available that can be picked up at the Welcome Desk on Sunday morning or at the church office. Quantities are limited so directories will be given on a first-come-first-serve basis.

## Youth Ministry

**Neighborhood Breakfast, 8:00am.** Help serve the community on Sunday mornings.

**Worship, 9:30am** – Join our wonderful community of believers by worshipping with us each Sunday morning.

Pipe meets every Sunday from **7:00–8:30pm**. We have worship, food, mixers and a challenging lesson each week. Join us for a great time in a safe atmosphere.

What a great summer we have had with everyone at Pipe! It has been a fabulous summer of fellowship through the Post Pipe parties. We have seen a lot of new students. We have had a great time worshipping together and experiencing community. We have also had a fabulous summer of trips, overnights and two great mission trips. It is such a joy to work with the students associated with the Pipe.

A special thank you to everyone who supported our mission trips through finance and prayer. Both trips were a great time of bonding and challenges for our students. Thank You!

**Salem Housing-Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am – 12:00pm.** It is a great time to serve others by cleaning, painting or home repair. Join us!

**Back to School Beach Party Dance-Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:30–10:00pm.** Join us for all the music, food and fun.

**Back to School Beach Bash Kickoff-Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:00–8:30pm.** There will be food, music, crazy fun, games and fellowship for all. This will be a great night to bring a friend.

**Youth Team Student Applications:** Any students who would be interested in serving on the Youth Team during the next school year can pick up an application in the Pipe.

## Grief Ministry

“You want to know who helped me? That’s easy...It was those who listened and nodded and patted and hugged and wept and waited with me for this season called grief to end.”

*Harold Ivan Smith*

Beginning **September 8<sup>th</sup>**, our Grief Ministry Group will meet on the second Tuesday of each month through May 2010 from **1:30–3:00pm** in the Memorial Parlor. This faith-based group offers information, understanding, support, encouragement and guidance to the bereaved. Registration isn’t necessary. Facilitated by Frankie Bonner, RN, Parish Nurse.

## Theology Is Important

This fall we are celebrating John Calvin’s 500<sup>th</sup> birthday with studies of *Who’s Who in Church History*, the Rescuing Calvin Series, and a Calvin style worship service on Reformation **Sunday, October 25**. It is important for us to understand our history and to study theology. Theology is faith seeking understanding. As we put our faith into words, those words shape us and guide us. Many people today do not think theology is important. Many think that all Christians have the same basic theology. This summer I was reminded that theology is important.

On July 5<sup>th</sup>, I worshiped early morning at a Wisconsin Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church and later at a Roman Catholic Church. Since it was July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, the Lutheran Church used their liturgy for government recognition. I felt uncomfortable pledging allegiance to the American Flag during Sunday morning worship. The scriptures were chosen to call me to unconditional commitment to country. This service was a result of Luther’s theology of two God ordained realms: church and state. Luther also believed that the leaders of both were placed there by God deserving our allegiance. Our Reformed Theology declares only one realm where only Jesus Christ is Lord and that all human institutions have faults that with God’s help we should be reforming. Theology matters.

The Roman Catholic service was at Holy Hill Cathedral. The service was packed. I participated in the worship. The sermon was good pointing out our need to be open to the Holy Spirit. However, the priest kept emphasizing that being open to the Holy Spirit was to follow exactly what Pope Benedict says. Again our Reformed faith listens to what the Holy Spirit says through scripture, worship, prayer, and the community of faith not through just one individual. All humans have the tendency towards idolatry. Theology matters.

In both worship services communion was offered, but both the Wisconsin Synod and the Roman Catholic Church do not want non members sharing communion with them. Our Reformed Theology declares that we are all members of the Universal (catholic) Church. If Jesus Christ is your Lord, you are welcome at Christ’s table at our church. Theology matters.

*John Musgrave*

## Meet PC(USA) Missionary Amy Robinson

**Tuesday September 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm in the Chapel**

Amy Robinson is the U.S. Coordinator of Pasos de Fe, one of six sites along the U.S. – Mexico border that are part of the Presbyterian Border Ministry. Amy facilitates the visits of church groups that want to participate in mission: she schedules and coordinates the visits, working with her colleagues from the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico to plan the work, worship and living arrangements. She is a graduate of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Plan on meeting her and hear about our work along the border.

## Children's Ministry

**PowerXpress Rotational Christian Education**  
**Beginning October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Sundays 10:45am-12:00pm in Room 312**  
**Kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Imagine a Sunday school classroom where children examine Van Gogh's *Starry Night* and paint their own version while discussing God's promise to Abram when God said, "Look at the sky and try to count the stars; you will have as many descendants as that." (Genesis 15:5, Good News) Enter a room where children are playing the "Laughing Game." When the giggles wind down, the teacher begins a discussion about laughter. He reminds the children how elderly Abraham and Sarah laughed when God told them they would have a baby, and asks if they know the meaning of the baby's name, Isaac. When the children hear that Isaac means "laughter," the giggles begin again. It's **POWERFUL!**

Come and experience God's love! With the PowerXpress curriculum, children will experience the Bible story in many different ways. When children see AND hear AND do, they retain 90% of the experience. As a result, the Bible story and its meaning will stay with them for life! Our team of experienced educators will communicate the Bible lessons and engage all children each week through art, science, computers and games. Each month a new topic will be introduced and explored. Be a part of this exciting and God filled learning opportunity!

**PowerXpress Open House**

**September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 11:00am-12:00pm**

This is for all students, parents, grandparents and others interested in touring our delightful facility.

**Preschool (ages 3-5) Christian Education**  
**Beginning Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Sundays from 11:00am-12:00pm in Room 214**

Calling all Jr. Disciples! Come to learn, be loved and be nurtured. Ages 3-5 learn God's Word and how it applies to their lives through fun and engaging lesson plans, colorful books with in-class activities to take home, storyboards, art, music, play and more! Give your kids a solid start by enrolling them today!

**"Bee" Helpful Service Squad**

**Beginning Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30pm in Room 312**

**Kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This is our mid-week rejuvenation invitation to all children. Come and find out how to truly serve Christ by serving others. This opportunity is worth the trip and the effort; we guarantee this will be a kid favorite. Come and give it a try!

Child Care is offered for birth to age 5 in Room 205 and 211. Sundays 9:00am-12:00pm for Worship and Education Wednesdays 6:00-7:30pm for Contemplative Worship and Education.

All registration and enrollment forms for Christian education classes are available online at [www.fpcf.org/ministries/children](http://www.fpcf.org/ministries/children), at First Presbyterian or by calling the office to request one. Please fill out one form per child and return them by **September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009** to Jaime Powell, Director of Children's Ministry. Questions? Please call 810-234-8673 for more information.

## Promises Fulfilled Weekend

**September 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**, will be another **Faith in Flint** workday! Flint has a new mayor and there is an excitement for positive change so what can we do to show our faith in Flint? *The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind!* First Presbyterian, filled with God's Spirit of new life, has an active role in opening doors for that fresh breeze to sweep over and through the *people*, the *streets*, the *planning*, the *spirit* of this, our community! God's sweet Spirit that fills us with new life in Christ calls us to show and tell our neighbors about life under God's Reign; so on this day all are invited to get our hands dirty and work together . . . to exhale and fill our community with the love that fills us with peace and joy.

**Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**, we will gather for Homecoming Festive Worship. Following that celebration, we will parade up Saginaw Street—led by the Pipe Band—to the river for picnic fellowship at the River Bank Park! The grills will be hot and the lemonade will be cold. (For those unable to parade, transportation to the park and back to the church will be provided.) To help cover costs, we ask for a monetary donation.

**Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**, as part of our **Faith in Flint**, we will be working with the Food Bank we will host a food give-away in our church parking lot. We will need about 20 volunteers to help with the distribution from 8:30am – 1:30pm.

If you have questions or would like to sign up, please contact Paul Ytterock in the church office at 234-8673.

## Thank you from Kathryn Lobban

"Most sincerely, I thank all who so thoughtfully and kindly gave me reminiscences, congratulations and best wishes for my 100th birthday which I very happily and most humbly celebrated on July 24, 2009."  
*Kathryn Lobban*

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## SERVE MISSION

### A Little Story and a Big Lesson

A few Sundays ago, Sharon and I were on our way to the 8:00 Mass at St. Pius. (Although Sharon is active at First Presbyterian, she is Catholic and maintains her membership at St. Pius.) The night before, we had been out to dinner with some friends. I thought the khaki pants I had worn were clean so I simply pressed them and was ready to go. As I got out of the car, I noticed about half-way down to my knees, along the inside seams of my slacks, there were large brown stains. They were remnants of my hot fudge sundae from the previous night. In my rushed ironing, I missed seeing them. But as I walked and sat, they were obviously present. There was no time to run home and change so I had Sharon walk very closely in front of me as we went into the church. What would people think if they noticed!? I would feel humiliated (feelings of shame). Then a new thought came to me. So I had chocolate stains on my pants. I had not given my pants a thorough looking over (an admission of guilt) but there was no shame in that. I realized I could give up my expectation of looking (or being) perfect. After that, I could even see humor in the situation. After Mass, I told Sharon she didn't have to hide me anymore. I even stopped to shake hands with Father Robert on the way out. We then rushed home so I would have time to press a clean pair of khakis to wear to First Presbyterian.

For me, this little story is a metaphor of sin, guilt and shame. God created us to be good but we sinned, and continue to do so. Sometimes we sin out of selfish carelessness, other times intentionally. Either way, we cause

pain for ourselves, others and God. My sin was in carelessly ironing my pants and imposing on Sharon. Taking responsibility and feeling some guilt was appropriate. But I did more. I shamed myself, imagining that people might think the worst if they noticed the stains. God redeemed this by reminding me I'm not perfect, teaching me something about shame and guilt and, most importantly, by loving me, dirty pants and all.

This is a simple, perhaps slightly silly, little story but sin, guilt and shame are serious and destructive. I have a friend who was guilty of causing a death by driving drunk, creating a widow, a fatherless child and leaving his own family to fend for themselves while he served time in jail. For awhile, he hated himself, even to thoughts of suicide (shame). The emotional scars of his actions remain. He still feels guilt and has taken responsibility for what he did, but by accepting God's forgiveness, he chooses not to shame himself. By God's grace and hard work he remains sober and willingly gives of himself to his church, family and those in need. In counseling, I see people do enormous damage by shaming themselves. They may internalize the shame, believing that they are unlovable and defective. Others externalize their shame, becoming self-righteous, judgmental and legalistic. We are mistaken to shame ourselves or others (Romans 8:1). No matter what sin, guilt, or shame we face, it is vital to remember that God has the final word, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him." *Andy Armstrong*

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