

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN *First Things* BIRMINGHAM

Sunday, June 27, 2010 • Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lunch & Learn Meeting

Today!

*Sun., June 27, following 10am worship,
Room 141/142*

Please join us to plan for Lunch & Learn this coming year 2010-2011. We welcome you and your ideas. If you cannot attend this meeting and have suggestions for possible speakers for our upcoming programs, please call Barbara Lewis, 248.649.5356, to offer your help.

Summer Camp Supplies Needed

*June 30th
Deadline*

Orchards Children's Services needs camp supplies for 100 foster kids/campers. Please bring donations to the main office by **June 30**. Your help supporting these foster kids is greatly appreciated! 1. New or gently used **sleeping bags**; 2. New or gently used **beach towels**; 3. **Trial sized toiletries**; 4. **Flip flops** of all sizes; 5. **Deodorant**; 6. **Bug spray**; 7. **Sun screen**. Questions? Please contact Pam Smith at 248.632.2355.

Loose Change Offering

The first Sunday of every month you are invited to contribute your loose change to the offering plate. This loose change goes to the Deacons to help support their efforts to meet the immediate needs of food, clothing and shelter in our greater community. If you miss this offering you can collect your change at home and bring it to church when you can. Those quarters really add up to help those in need!

CrossWalks and Youth Today

Grades K-5Red Sea Cinema
Grades 6-8Youth Room
Grades 9-12 Remain in worship
Celebration Station
for children with special needs..... 101

*Infant-Walkers: Crib Room
2 year olds: Room 102*

*Worship Wonder
3 year olds: Room 218
4 year olds: Room 217*

Events at FPC Today

8:30am Worship Chapel
10:00 Worship Service..... Sanctuary
11:15 Lunch & Learn Planning ... 141/142
11:15 1 Corinthians Class/Judson .. Fireside

Going "Up North"? Gathering at the Pool? July 4th is coming up...

Today!

Sun., June 27, Calvin Hall

The 175th committee has some wonderful beach bags on summer clearance, as well as other items. Look for the beach display in Calvin. Our sturdy bags are priced at \$8 each, or two for \$12! These summer clearance items, mugs, DVD's, stationery, can also be found in the main office, for your convenience, during the week.

Reaching...

So what is the church? Is it the people who gather each week at 1669 W. Maple Road? Is it the church building that exists at that location? Is the church all believers in Jesus Christ around the world? Is it just some of the followers of Jesus who believe certain things? Is it a human institution (rules, regulations, budgets, etc.)? Is it a holy institution (a locus of the presence of God in Christ)? Is it a hotel for saints or a hospital for sinners?

Over the centuries these and other descriptions have been used to define the thing that we call church. If we are to cast a vision for our church it might be worth taking some time to think about the church.

The place we need to begin is with the realization that the followers of Jesus were not always called either Christians or the Church. In the beginning those who followed Jesus were called The Way. In some ways (no pun intended) I think this would have been the most appropriate name for the Christ centered community. The Way reminded Christ's followers that they were on a journey to discover and live out the love and grace of God they learned from Jesus. It was a reminder that faith was about adventure and growth. It was a reminder that we never arrive but are

always becoming those persons God wants us to be.

Relatively quickly the name The Way lost out to two other designations: Christians (to describe individual followers) and the Church (to describe collective followers). The word church in Greek is ecclesia. It was a term that referred to a group of people who are called out of a larger community to meet for a specific purpose. It was often used to describe a meeting of citizens who came together to make decisions. In a sense then, the followers of Jesus took an existing term, redefined it and made it their own. While the church thus had a name (the Church of God at Ephesus, meaning the people at Ephesus called out by God for the purpose of following Jesus) it still had to figure out what it was.

We are indebted to the Apostle (meaning a person sent for a specific purpose...and in the Christian sense, one sent to found churches) Paul for his work at defining the idea of church. Paul used a number of images to describe the church but the primary one was that of the Body of Christ. The image is a powerful one because it reminds us of two key things.

First, it reminds us that the church is not simply a human institution (though it often

operates like one). The church instead is a living, breathing entity drawing its life from its head, Jesus Christ. This realization ought to help us avoid the temptation to become so immersed in the "business" of running the church that we forget that our purpose is to exist as the arms, hands and heart of Christ in the world.

Second, the term reminds us that just as a body has many parts so does the church. The Apostle Paul spends a great deal of time talking about being a member of the church...by which he does not mean a member of an organization, but a physical member such as a hand or a foot. The idea is that each of us is given certain natural and spiritual abilities which we are to use to make the Body of Christ function properly. Thus membership becomes not about privilege but about service.

Our vision then ought to take into consideration the unique nature of the church; that we are called by God to live out the way of Jesus in the world. This is a task to which no other organization in the world is called nor empowered to do. This is our task, and one which I hope we as people of the Promise are proud to undertake.



Prayers for...

- Andrew and Margarita Berg who have accepted the position of Intercultural Encounter Facilitator for CEDEPCA in Guatemala. The position will begin in January 2011.
- Nancy and William A. Roberts, sister and brother-in-law of David Overly. They are Officers (Cols.) in the Salvation Army, currently assigned to Western Kenya, performing missionary and administrative duties.
- NEW ADDRESS: Thomas Appledorn, grandson of Lois Appledorn, stationed in Baghdad, Iraq. This is his third deployment in Iraq. His address is: SSG Thomas Appledorn, C CO 2-14 IN Camp Stryker, Iraq, APO AE 09322
- Beth Carter, doing mission work in Venezuela.

Please send prayer requests to: firstthings@

Celebrating the Life of...

Martha Rambie, age 91, passed away from this life on June 15, 2010 at Avow Hospital in Naples, Florida. She completed her journey peacefully and joyfully joining her Father in heaven.

She and her husband, Ed Rambie, met through their church work and were married in 1941. Martha and Ed were members of FPC Birmingham since 1961, and remained very active in the Presbyterian church as Youth Directors, church school teachers, and Skyline supporters. Martha actively continued her church work at FPC Birmingham after Ed's passing in 1986. After moving to Naples, Florida, she was active in the First Presbyterian Church in Naples, and in the Stephen

Ongoing Events

All are welcome to join these groups.

- **Stay & Play** Parent and young child play group. Contact: Kim McGlynn, ext. 138. See you in the fall.
- **Shawl Ministry.** Call for meeting dates/ time. Sarah Krug, 248.435.6588
- **Tuesday Early Morning Bible Study** 7am in Rm 141/142. *Current study: Luke*
- **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** 8:30am in the Library. *Current study: Luke*
- **Evening Book Club (second Tuesday)** 7pm in Fireside.
- **Morning Readers' Circle (third Tuesday)** 10am in Fireside. 9/21: *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson
- **Fun, Fitness & Fellowship (Tuesday & Thursday)** 10am in Youth Rm (229)

Ministries, until shortly before her death.

Martha loved life and spent hers aspiring to do God's will. Her compassion and caring for others has affected hundreds of lives, and her strong Christian influence lives on as her legacy.

She is survived by her three children, Gail, Tim, and Deb, as well as 7 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.

Memorial service was held in Naples, Florida on June 19, 2010. In lieu of flowers, should anyone desire to make a donation, the family asks that donations be made in Martha's name to: Avow Hospice; 1095 Whippoorwill Lane, Naples, FL 34105.

Connecting...

What Are the Youth Doing This ^{Today!} Summer?

Youth Sunday School will continue through the summer.

Mid-high Summer Sunday School will meet on 6/27, 7/11, 7/18, 8/1, 8/8, and 8/22. Please note: No meeting on July 4

Mid-highs will begin meeting again on Sunday, June 27 during the 10am worship service. They will meet in the youth room and should leave at the beginning of the *Time With the Younger Church*. They will explore mission stories from PC(USA) young adult volunteers around the country and around the world.

High school students will continue meeting at Zuma coffeehouse in downtown Birmingham at 9am for coffee and conversation. Bring your questions or discussion topics with you. We'll spend the summer with the "fishbowl," pulling your questions and topics out of the bowl to get our conversations rolling. Carl Fischer has agreed to continue our bus service back to church for worship at 10am.

Chancel Flower Distribution

Many Sundays, our Chancel flowers are delivered to homebound or hospitalized FPC members. On those Sundays, you will find a deacon or deacons creating smaller arrangements in Calvin kitchen during coffee hour. If you know of anyone who could be cheered by such a bouquet, please stop by Calvin kitchen and deliver one personally. Deacon flower contacts: Barb Turner & Corry Howe.

Weekly Email Update

Recently FPC has signed on with Constant Contact (a mass email mailing service) to deliver our weekly email updates.

While this is a wonderful service, it may happen that your internet provider pegs this communication as SPAM and will automatically put this email in your SPAM folder without you knowing.

If you have missed our weekly communication, please check your SPAM folder and if FPC is listed there, please take the steps to remove us from your SPAM list.

If FPC is NOT in your SPAM folder and you are not receiving the weekly email, please contact Ellen, ext. 137.

Need a Baby "Fix"?

Do you miss holding those sweet little babies? We are looking for "Grandmas and Grandpas" to care for babies in the nursery each Sunday. If you would consider helping in the nursery once a month or even once in awhile, please contact Molly Reed 248.593.5933 or Cindy Merten 248.644.2087, ext. 145. There is also a sign-up sheet outside the nursery. You must fill out a screening form first, and those are available in each nursery.

Greeters are Needed

Please consider signing up to be a greeter for one of our Sunday services. You can be the friendly face that welcomes those as they enter the church. It is a small time commitment and an opportunity to meet others in the church. Please contact Terry Chaney, chaneyt@wowway.com.

Re-Enrollment Request

The Kroger Community Rewards Program has been a great benefit to First Presbyterian Church. By designating FPC (participant code 82472) with Kroger, a portion of the dollars you spend at Kroger is donated to the church. FPC received almost \$4,000 under the program last year.

Kroger now requires that members of all organizations re-enroll once each year. If you are one of the people who registered on-line, please take a few minutes to re-enroll. The steps are very simple:

1. Go to
www.krogercommunityrewards.com
2. Click on "Michigan"
3. Click "Re-enroll"
4. Enter your e-mail address
5. Enter your password (if you forgot your password, go through "Forgot your password") and click "Sign In"
6. Find FPC by typing in "First" and selecting our church.
7. Click "Select your Organization"
8. Click "Save Changes"

You will then be re-enrolled and all your Kroger purchases will benefit the church for another year!

If you have never enrolled or used the bar code enrollment method at a store last year, it is a bit more cumbersome. However, someone will be glad to help you!

For help with either method, please call Charlotte Fischer at 248.646.8078 and she will be happy to walk you through the process.

Shawls for All

Shawl Ministry would like everyone to know that Prayer Shawls are available. If you know someone who would be warmed in love by one of these shawls, please see Jan Peters or Cindy Merten.

Help Us Care for Each Other

If you know of someone who's ill, in the hospital, or in need of prayer and pastoral care, please let the church office know. We value being able to visit with and pray for members of our congregation, but we don't know unless someone informs us. Contact Jan Peters with pastoral care concerns, and call Barbara Buchanan or Pat Lindroth with prayer requests for the prayer chain.

"Releasing, Renewing, Restoring God's World"

The 2010 theme for FPC is "Releasing, Renewing, Restoring God's World." This theme is based on the Gospel of Luke and its emphasis on Jubilee, which is about releasing, renewing and restoring.

Greetings from Kermit

Since every up-side seems to have a down-sides, what is the problem with fluorescent light bulbs, which save lots of energy? The down-side is getting rid of them when they burn out. The solution is to dispose of them without letting mercury into the air, which hurts people. The solution is to put a burned or broken bulb into two plastic bags, wrap them tight with duct tape and put them in the normal trash. Just don't hit a frog with it.

-Kermit

Serving...

Youth Open MiC (Mission in Community)

Week of July 12-16

Don't worry if you're not a musician, this Open MiC is for *Mission in Community*. Most summer mission trips involve long car (or plane) rides, lots of overhead costs, and a one-time impact on a community. However, young people have the life-changing opportunity to live in community, get away from their everyday lives, and enter into the lives of strangers in a transformative way. This summer, we're taking the best parts of both local and destination mission work and putting them together into a week of mission work and communal living.

Youth will live at the church for the week, sleeping in the youth room, showering in our newly installed showers, grocery shopping, cooking and eating together, living within a budget, planning and experiencing worship daily. Each day we'll participate in local mission work in Pontiac, a community that is geographically near but can seem worlds away in terms of living conditions and economic disparity. This event is for youth going into 10th grade through those who have just graduated from high school. The cost is \$150, and financial assistance is available. Register online at <http://www.fpcbirmingham.org/events/youth-open-mic/>, or return your registration brochure to Amy Morgan, ext. 140, or amymorgan@fpcbirmingham.org.

Blood Drive Gives Lives & College Scholarships

Sun., July 12, 2-8pm, Calvin Hall

Come to give blood, the gift of life, but also come to help one of our youth earn a college scholarship! Katherine Nagley will be participating in the American Red Cross "Making a Difference Educational Summer Scholarship Program." Based on the number of units of blood collected during this drive, Katherine will receive scholarship money for her college education. Anyone who is healthy, over the age of 17, and weighs at least 110 lbs. can donate blood. Please mark your calendars and make an effort to participate in this special blood drive.

To schedule your appointment go to www.redcrossblood.org or contact Katherine at 248.802.4889.

Deacons

For the month of June

Donations are needed for LightHouse. Especially needed are canned goods, pantry items, and paper products, such as toilet paper, paper towels, and Kleenex. Please leave your donations at the Deacons Pantry located in the Eagle entrance.

Audio System Operators Needed

We are in need of additional volunteers to operate and monitor our new sound system during the various services here at FPC. The system's operation does not require intensive training, and you will be assisted in learning about it. Consider being part of the audio team. For more information, please contact Bob Morrill at 248.642.3274.

FPC Weekly Calendar

Monday, June 28

7:00pm Session Calvin
8:30 AA Monday Nite Group 215/217/218
8:30 Al-anon.....216

Tuesday, June 29

7:00am Bible Study 141/142
9:00 Bible StudyLibrary
7:30pm Emotions Anon.....Library

Thursday, July 1

10:00am Women's AA Group 141/142

Friday, July 2

Building will be closed on Fridays
during July and August

Sunday, July 4

8:30am WorshipChapel
10:00 WorshipSanctuary
11:15 1 Corinthians/ Dr. Judson....Fireside

Softball League

*2010 Church Softball Schedule
(Season is from April 25- August 1)*

Mark your calendars to come cheer on the
FPC Softball Team!

June 27/noon/ Poppleton Park

July 4/ No game (holiday weekend)

July 11/ noon/ Poppleton Park

July 18/ 1:15pm/ Beverly Park

July 25/ noon/ Beverly Park

August 1/ noon/ Play-offs

Today!

Green is for Guests

On Sundays, there are parking spaces marked
in green paint for guests who are visiting our
church. (It is open parking during the week.)

Can we help?

See an usher for large-print bulletins, and
hymnals. There are rocking chairs in the lobby
for restless infants, and child care is offered at
each service.

Can't Hear?

Do you have trouble hearing what is said
in our worship services? If so, Rejoice and
Renew has purchased four hearing assistance
devices that may be helpful in eliminating
that problem. They are available from one of
the ushers who will ask that you sign one out
and assist you in its use.

Sessions Highlights Available

If you'd like to know what actions Session took
at its last meeting, look for Session Highlights,
a monthly summary available in the Main
Office and on our website.

Stay in the Loop

We are happy to mail copies of First Things
to anyone who needs a copy. Names and
addresses should be given to Jan Peters.

Notary Public Service Available

FPC members are welcome to bring their
documents to Jan Peters, certified Notary
Public, Monday through Thursday.

Welcoming...

Directory

All Church Members.....	Ministers
Rev. John Judson, DMin.....	Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Amy Morgan, MDiv.....	Associate Pastor/Director of Youth Ministries
Cindy Merten, CACE.....	Director of Christian Education
Kevin Calloway, BA.....	Director of Music Ministries
Rev. Ernest F. Krug III, MDiv, MD**.....	Parish Associate
Rev. Hank Borchardt, DMin**.....	Parish Associate
Christine Gannon, MDiv**.....	Pastoral Associate

*** Non-stipendiary position*

Weekly Worship

Sundays at 8:30am (with Communion) Sundays at 10am (with church school)

Child care is available

Worship Services returning in September:

Saturdays at 5pm Worship Service (casual attire) & Wednesdays at 7pm Evening Worship

Contact us

First Presbyterian Church
1669 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, Michigan, 48009
248.644.2040

Email: contact@fpcbirmingham.org

Website: www.fpcbirmingham.org

Email address for reservations for church events: reservations@fpcbirmingham.org

Summer Office hours

Monday-Thursday.....8:30am-4:30pm
Fridays..... Building will be closed
on Fridays during July and August

Publications

To receive our **Weekly Email Update**, send an email to firstthings@fpcbirmingham.org.

First Things articles should be emailed to firstthings@fpcbirmingham.org by Monday at noon.

First News newsletter notices should be sent to firstnews@fpcbirmingham.org the first Monday of the preceding month.

Web updates should be turned in to the Main Office or emailed to Polly Schlafhauser at schlaf@comcast.net.

Mission statement

As we respond to God in Christ, the mission of First Presbyterian Church is to be a community of faith that celebrates its heritage, lives the will of God, and reaches out in Christ's love through ministries of worship, education, service, and nurture.

Inclusion policy statement

We of the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, Michigan, strive to be a faithful, open and inclusive congregation. We welcome the participation of all people regardless of race, ethnic origin, worldly condition, or any other circumstance not related to the profession of faith.