

First Things

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 5, 2012

Vision Statement

As Everybody's church we commit ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion and community.

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.

Wanted! Small Group Leaders for Love Wins study

Beginning February 20th, we will engage in a Lenten study of the book Love Wins by Rob Bell. We are looking for those willing to lead a small group in a weekly discussion of the book. Discussion questions will be provided along with training. If you have questions or are interested, contact Dr. Judson at 248.644.2040 x-127, johnjudson@everybodyschurch.org.

Today's Events

Youth and CrossWalks

All Abilities Inclusion Ministry
 Middle School..... Youth Room
 4th and 5th Grade..... Oasis
 2nd and 3rd Grade Temple School
 Kindergarten and 1st Grade Noah's Art
 Worship Wonder for 3 year olds Room 218
 Worship Wonder for 4 year olds Room 217

Childcare available:

Infant-Walkers Crib Room
 2 year olds Room 102

8:30am	Worship	Chapel
9:00	Wake Up to the Word	Zuma
9:00	Confirmation Year 1 Youth	Youth Room
9:00	Confirmation Year 1 Parents	Fireside Room
9:30am	Blood Pressure Screening	Calvin Hall
10:00	Worship	Sanctuary
11:30	Learn the Bible in a Year	Fireside Room
3:00pm	Youth Groups	Youth Room
5:00	Meditative Communion Service	Sanctuary

Blood Pressure Screening

Today after worship services, Calvin Hall

Souper Bowl of Caring

Today, February 5

Most of us have never had to wonder where our next meal is coming from. But for more than 46 million Americans (one in six adults and one in four children) it is a very real concern. In the Detroit metro area, the need is even greater. That is why each year on Souper Bowl Sunday, our youth collect monetary donations and non-perishable food items to make a difference for people in need. Over the last six years, we have donated hundreds of food items and over \$2,500 to local hunger relief agencies such as Forgotten Harvest, Baldwin Center Soup Kitchen, and Pontiac Meals on Wheels. Please join our young people, and youth around the country, as they demonstrate God's love by loving our neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Upcoming Events

Next Sunday, February 12, 5pm Gospel & Praise Service

We will celebrate African Americans in songs with the Hope Presbyterian Gospel Choir and words by the Rev. Diane Smalley. There will be a potluck dinner in Knox Hall following the service with recognition of the newly created Truth Commission of the MI Roundtable for Diversity.

All Church Potluck following the Gospel & Praise service, February 12

Come on down to Knox Auditorium after the 5pm service and bring a dish to share!

Babysitting Services

February 11 and March 17

9:15am – 1:30pm, Room 102 (Whale Room); Cost: \$5.00 per hour/\$1.50 per each additional sibling. Middle and High School Girls Scouts of Birmingham would love to baby-sit your child. Please reserve your child's space and time by Thursday before the Saturday of babysitting. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the Whale room or contact: Shirleigh Vinson, 248.647.0675, email: shirleigh@getmarbled.com

Seminar on Combating Bullying, Cruelty, Depression and Suicide

Friday, February 10, 9:30am– Noon, Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph Rd., Blmflld Hills
 "Combatting bullying, cruelty, depression and suicide among young people a religious imperative," will feature Rabbi Daniel Syme of Temple Beth El and Heather Irish, founder and CEO of MINDS, a non-profit organization educating high school students about mental illness and suicide. Presentations will be held at 9:30 and 10:45 with lunch provided. RSVP to Tina Crozier (248.865.0602 or tcrozier@tbeonline.org) before February 3. Questions can also be forwarded to Judy Perryman, 248.645.0473.

Helpful Information

Ask an Usher: (accessibility assistance)

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

Parking 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.)

Staying Connected

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

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday, 9am – 5pm; Friday, 9am – 1pm

(Doors are locked at 1pm on Fridays)

Need to Contact Us?

First Presbyterian Church

1669 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, MI 48009, 248.644.2040

Website: www.everybodyschurch.org

Reservations at reservations@everybodyschurch.org

This Week's Schedule

Monday, February 6			Thursday, February 9		
9:30am	Exercise with Pam Smith	Youth Rm	9:30am	Exercise with Pam Smith	Parable Pl
10:00	Stay and Play	102	9:30	Covenant	Fireside
10:00	Shawl Ministry	Fireside Rm	10:00	Fun, Fitness and Fellowship	Youth Rm
7:00	Worship Committee	Calvin Hall	10:00	AA Women's Group	137, 141/142
7:30	Al-anon	216	11:30	Lunch and Learn	Calvin Hall
8:30	AA Monday Nite Group	215/217/218	7:00pm	Adoptive/Foster Parents	137
Tuesday, February 7			Friday, February 10		
7:00am	Bible Study	141/142	7:00	All Abilities Inclusion Ministries	141/142
9:00	Bible Study	Library (E)	7:00	Learn the Bible in a Year	Chapel
9:30	Exercise with Pam Smith	Parable Pl	Saturday, February 11		
10:00	Fun, Fitness and Fellowship	Youth Rm	9:30am	Exercise with Pam Smith	Youth Room
6:30pm	Faith Coalition for Foster Care	Calvin Hall	Sunday, February 12		
7:00	Communities Connect	137	9:00am	Girl Scout Babysitting	102
7:00	FPC Ringers	Bell Room	6:30pm	New Member/Session Potluck	Calvin
Wednesday, February 8			8:30am	Worship	Chapel
9:30am	Exercise with Pam Smith	Youth Rm	9:00	Confirmation Year 1 Youth	Youth Rm
4:30pm	Carol Choir	New Song	9:00	Confirmation Year 1 Parents	Fireside Rm
4:30	Music Makers	Youth Room	9:00	Wake Up to the Word	Zuma
5:00	Learn the Bible in a Year	Chapel	10:00	Family Worship	Sanctuary
5:00	Chapel Choir	New Song	11:00	Dinner for 8 "Blind Date"	Knox
5:30	Wed. Connect Dinner	Knox	11:30	Learn the Bible in a Year	Fireside Rm
5:45	Intergenerational Handbells	Bell Room	3:00	FreeMe	The Cave
6:15	Youth Choir	Choir Rm t	3:00	FOCUS	Youth Room
7:00	Evening Worship	Chapel	5:00	Gospel & Praise Service	Sanctuary
7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Rm	6:00	All Church Potluck	Knox
8:00	MA 12 Step Program	Library (W)			

Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church

Want to know more about what we are doing? Keep informed with our monthly email by subscribing on <http://newsletters.fpcbirthingam.org>.

Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center

Hand-In-Hand is a licensed learning center for children four months through five years. For more information, please contact the Director, Heidi Wilkinson, 248.644.2040 x-124.

Ongoing Community Groups

All are welcome to join these groups.

- **Stay & Play (Mondays)** 10am
Parent and young child play group. Contact Kim McGlynn, ext. 138
- **Shawl Ministry (Mondays)** Weekly 10am, Fireside Room
Contact Judy Gillow, 248.758.9569 or Sarah Krug, 248.435.6588
- **Tuesday Early Morning Bible Study** Weekly 7am in Room 141/142.
Current study: *First and Second Samuel*
- **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** Weekly 8:45am in the Library
Current study: *Second Samuel*
- **FPC Ringers Handbells**, Tuesdays, 7 – 8:30pm. No experience required, but some ability to read music is helpful.
- **Evening Book Club (second Tuesday)** 7pm in Fireside
Will not meet in February. March 13: *"The Social Animal"* by David Brooks
- **Morning Readers' Circle (third Tuesday)** 10am in Fireside
February 20: *"Tiger's Wife"* by Tea Obrecht
- **Fun, Fitness & Fellowship (Tuesday & Thursday)** 10am in Youth Room
A Sam Freeman video stretching and strengthening exercise class.
- **Presbyterian Women Bible Study (Third Wednesday)** 9:30am in Calvin
- **Men's Bible & Brew (Third Thursday)** February 16, 5:45pm at Dexter Snyder's house (248.642.1475). Bring your own brew, dinner provided. Call Hank Borchardt at 248.738.1607 for more information.

Wednesday Connect and Evening Worship

Wednesday night dinners are served 5:30 – 7pm in Knox Auditorium

This Week's Menu: *Meatloaf & Salad or Salad Bar*

The offerings will be a full dinner for adults (\$9), a salad bar (\$9) and a children's meal (\$4) There is a cap of \$25 per family. Reservations are required and can be made on the pew pads or in the church office, by phone 248.644.2040 and on the website by Tuesday noon. Look for "Wednesday Night Dinner Reservations" on the home page. Join us every Wednesday!

For Children: Wednesdays begin with Children's Choirs led by Sue Kohns.

The **Carol Choir, K – 2nd Grade**, meets from 4:30 – 5pm and the **Chapel Choir, 3rd – 5th Grade** meets from 5 – 5:45pm. These choirs teach the fundamentals of singing and introduces Orff Instrument playing. Contact director, Sue Kohns, kohns1228@yahoo.com.

Music Makers for 3 & 4 year olds meets from 4:30 – 5pm. This singing group will start your child in the fun of music. Contact director, Sam Lyttle, sjlmusic13@gmail.com.

For Youth: Scola Cantorum (Auditioned Youth Vocal Ensemble), 6th-12th Grades, Wednesdays 6:15 – 7:15pm. Please see Kevin Calloway about this ensemble.

For Adults: Chancel Choir, college age and above, Wednesdays 7:30 – 9:30pm. This SATB group's primary focus is to prepare weekly anthem and help lead worship on Sundays. Additional major programs are planned for Christmas and Lent.

Dr. Judson is leading a class "Learn the Bible in a Year," Wednesdays from 5 – 6pm, Thursdays from 7 – 8pm, & Sundays 11:30am – 12:30pm.

Trombone Choir, Thursdays, 7 – 8:30pm. Contact Kyle Jones, kmhjones@wowway.com.

Worship on Wednesday: Dr. Ernest Krug leads a midweek 7pm worship which will allow you to be re-energized for the remainder of the week.

Community-Wide Events

Winter Fun Day at Skyline

Today, 11am-4pm, \$5 per person

Join us at Skyline for a day of winter fun for all ages. Sledding, ice skating, snowman building, igloo construction, prizes and games including the "Pursuit of the Pumped Up Penguin" are all included in the fun. Check out the Skyline website at www.campskyline.org/snowcathlon.html for more information.

The Road to Redemption: The Church (2)

By Pastor John

Several weeks ago someone asked me where the word “church” came from. My first response was to talk about the Greek word *ekklesia*, which we translate as church. On further reflection it occurred to me that *ekklesia* doesn’t seem to have any connection to our English word, church. With a bit of research I discovered the answer; however you will have to wait for the end of this article to find out how they are related. Where I want to begin is with a discussion of the concept of the *ekklesia* and how we got from there to here.

The word *ekklesia* was not originally a religious word. It had two secular meanings. The first meaning is that of people who are called out. In Greece when a city needed to gather its citizens for a discussion about a particular matter or to deal with issues of security a herald would move through the city “calling people out.” The people would then gather for the meeting. The second meaning of *ekklesia* carries with it the image of those who had gathered. So the complete meaning in secular Greek was that the *ekklesia* was the called out and gathered together people...again without any religious connotation.

At first glance then it might appear that the early Christians simply borrowed that word from secular Greek and put it to work to describe this new people of God. However there is more to it than that. The word *ekklesia* had also been in use by the Jewish community for some time. In the Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint) the word *ekklesia* is used almost a hundred times in order to describe God’s people. What sets the Biblical usage apart from its secular use is that in scripture *ekklesia* is always modified by “of the Lord.” In other words the Hebrew people are the called out and gathered people of the Lord. This use of *ekklesia* makes sense in terms of the overarching story of God’s people. The people of God were not those who happened to discover YHWH one day and decide to worship. It was always God (as we noted last week) who called people together for the purpose of being a blessing to the world.

When the early Christ followers used the term *ekklesia* then (Paul uses it extensively in this writings to refer to the Christ following community) they were not merely borrowing a secular term but were claiming the title of called out and gathered people of God for themselves. This makes sense when we understand their concept of who they were. Early Christians believed that in Jesus of Nazareth God had acted decisively to redeem the world. Through Jesus’ death, resurrection and appearances to the disciples and others Jesus had initiated a new moment in history and called forth from the old *ekklesia* of God (traditional Judaism) a new *ekklesia* which was to proclaim Jesus as Lord and live in the Jesus’ way (which is a reminder to us that the earliest followers of Jesus were called “The Way.”). We need to be careful to note here that the Apostle Paul is clear that this new *ekklesia* is an extension of and not a replacement of the old *ekklesia*. According to Paul the Jews are still God’s people and the followers of Christ as merely a branch grafted into God’s Old Testament *ekklesia*.

The church then began to adopt other words which Judaism had used to describe their *ekklesia* of God. The church began to speak of themselves as the elect (God had chosen them) and saints (they were to lead God centered lives).

We are now led back to our original question of the origins of the word “church.” The answer is that it is derived from the work of Theodoric the Great (454-526 CE). Theodoric was as an Ostrogothic King who ruled Italy after the fall of the Western Roman Empire. He was an Arian Christian who spread the faith into Germany. Along the way he spoke of believers as *kuriche*, meaning those who belong to the Lord. From this we get such words as *Kirche* (German), *Kirk* (Scottish) and *Kyrke* (Swedish) and Church (English). Of interest is that Spanish (*Ilgesia*), French (*eglise*) and Italian (*chiesa*) maintain a clear sense of *ekklesia*. Regardless of the name, we are still the called out and gathered people of God.

Next Week: The Road to Redemption – The Church (3)

Biblical Basics: Disease – our scripture lesson for this week speaks of Jesus healing diseases and casting out demons. Such stories make it clear that persons in the First Century could differentiate between the demonic and disease. Though they had no way of explaining disease they knew that it was physical and not spiritual. The Torah even had methods for dealing with certain diseases...which Jesus ignored.

Next Week’s Lesson: Mark 1:40-45

Jesus cleanses a leper but warns him not to tell anyone. The leper ignores Jesus’ command and tells everyone he can find, increasing Jesus’ fame and healing workload.

Mission

Lenten Devotional Booklet

Deadline Today!

Presbyterian Women are in need of your spiritual talents! For many years, Presbyterian Women have published a Lenten Devotional. The talents of our FPC members and friends have contributed to this booklet. A printed booklet will be available the week of Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012. We need at least 46 devotions! It helps us plan if we know who is planning to contribute, so let us know. More information on what to include and how long it needs to be can be found in the FPC Main Office or online at pwfpcbirmingham.org. There are 3 ways to submit your devotion: 1. Turn in a copy in FPC’s Main Office, 2. Email a copy to Lois & Irv Poston at ieposton@juno.com, or 3. Go to our PW’s website at pwfpcbirmingham.org. Please consider being a part of this wonderful and meaningful booklet. Questions, call Kim McGlynn at 248.642.0822.

Needed: 3 Dressers For Foster Kids; Tall Bookshelf; 50 Binders

Have any of these items to help our foster kids, families and aging out youth? Contact Rev. Kate Thoresen at 248.643.8373 to help.

South Oakland Shelter (SOS)

February 26 through March 4

Again this year, First Presbyterian Church Birmingham partners with SOS in offering food, shelter and love to our homeless brothers and sisters. We will be hosting 30 to 35 guests during the week of February 26 through March 4. Our goal is having these new friends feel as one with us as we eat, relax and smile together. FPC volunteers can sign-up now in hallway across from Calvin Hall. Hearts will be warmed as we answer Christ’s call to serve the least, the lost and the lonely. Last year FPC received high marks as a host church through guest surveys conducted by the SOS organization. There is a job for everybody. Let’s continue our fine work as Everybody’s Church.

Deacons’ Food Pantry

The Food Pantry Collection for both the months of February will go to COTS (Coalition on Temporary Shelter) in Detroit, and they have requested any of the following: We can use any and all canned fruits, vegetables, dry beans, lentils, seasonings, cooking oil, coffee, tea, Kool-aid, condiments, cutlery items (plastic spoons, forks, knives), foam plates

Supplies Needed for Medical Mission Team Trip

Our medical mission team travels to Mexico March 19-24, and we are collecting the following items to carry with us: children’s and adult vitamins (no gummy vitamins, please), Tylenol (generic brands are fine), Advil/Ibuprofen, ointments including cortisone, Neosporin or similar, Desitin and other diaper rash treatments. Please place them in the basket in the main office. If you are interested in participating in this opportunity to serve in the Yucatan Peninsula contact Cindy Merten at cindymerten@everybodyschurch.org for an application. Translators, nurses, doctors, and anyone with a willingness to serve is welcome.

Inclusion

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.

Become a Member of FPC

Explore what it means to become a member of FPC. A “Welcome” Service will be held on Sunday, February 12 at 10am for those interested in joining the church. Come to gatherings where prospective members can learn more about FPC, ask questions, and become better acquainted with the staff and others in our faith community. Session will host a potluck dinner at FPC in Calvin Hall on February 11 at 6:30pm for New Members and their families. Please call Kim McGlynn at 248.644.2040 x138 if you are interested in attending our fun gathering.

Fostering Hope Through Foster Care

Tuesday, February 7, 6:30pm, Calvin Hall

Hear Matt Henry of Skyline and others describe effective ways we are supporting foster children and families. Public invited to this regional gathering of the Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care.

Camp for Foster Kids and Respite Care

Tuesday, February 7, 6:30pm, Calvin Hall

Hear Matt Henry, formerly involved with child protective services and now Director of

Skyline Camp and Retreat Center, and Dan Robinson, Director of Royal Family Kids Camp. Both will share life changing stories when kids experience God’s love at camp. Kate Thoresen will briefly outline the benefits of respite care for foster kids. Connect with others in service agencies and congregations to discover that one unique way you can make a difference in a child’s life. For more information contact Parish Associate, Rev. Kate Thoresen at 248.643.8373.

Celebrating Black History Month

FPCB and the Multicultural Ministries Work Group of the Presbytery of Detroit will sponsor the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion’s Traveling Display Museum, from Saturday, February 4—Sunday, February 12. This display chronicles the history of race relations in the Detroit area from the 1900s. You are encouraged to invite your friends, family, schools, other churches. You are also encouraged to stop by the library where history of African Americans will also be on display during the month of February which celebrates Black History.

Community

Adoptive/Foster Parents Conversation Group Starting Up

Thursday, February 9, 7-8:15pm, Room 137

What are some joys and challenges that foster/adoptive parents face? How can our church become more intentional in supporting these 24/7 ministries at home? For more information, contact Sue Kohns kohns1228@yahoo.com, Pam Smith, Kwsunseeker@aol.com, or Parish Associate for Foster/Adoptive Families, Kate Thoresen, kthoresen7@gmail.com

Dinner for Eight “Great Blind Date”

Deadline to sign-up extended to Today. Sunday, February 12, “Great Blind Date”,

You can continue to sign up for Dinners for Eight through today. Many groups opt to meet at a restaurant, so don’t decline to participate just because you don’t think your home is suited to a large group or you don’t care to go to the work of entertaining at home. The “Great Blind Date,” where you meet your Dinner for Eight partners, will be February 12, following the 10am service. Bring your calendar, meet your new Dinner for Eight members, and start to plan your first get-together! See you there! Diane Falconer dbfalconer@comcast.net

Zappers! Theatre Event

Sunday, February 26, 2pm, Ridgedale Players Theatre, 205 W Long Lake, Troy

All 3rd-5th graders, family and friends are invited to attend Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, performed by the Ridgedale Players. Tickets are \$15/students and \$17/adults. Tickets must be purchased by [February 5](#). If you would like to attend or have any questions, please email Rose Gendruschke at Gendruschke@comcast.net.

Lunch & Learn

Thursday, February 9, 11:30am, Calvin Hall

Our speaker will be Stanford Evans who is a member of the Session of our First Presbyterian Church and an attorney with offices in Bloomfield Hills. He has been in private practice of law for over 50 years. His topic is “The Pulpit and Free Speech.” Stan poses these questions: How far can churches and their pastors go in publicly expressing opinions on social and political issues? How do the Internal Revenue Code and recent court decisions lay down rules that limit free speech in this area? Be sure to sign up in the main office or at the table outside Calvin Hall. Bring your sack lunch, and we will provide the beverages and dessert.

Housing Needed for Alma College Choir in Concert at FPC

Sunday, February 26, 7pm, Sanctuary

We are still seeking overnight accommodations for approximately 28 pairs of students of the Alma College Choir for Sunday night. If you are able to house a pair of students and provide transportation to your home and back to the church on Monday morning, please contact the Music Ministries office at 248.644.2040 ext. 137.

Fitness Classes at the Church

One of your New Year’s resolutions has just become that much easier to realize! Affordable fitness classes are now being offered at the church. Certified personal trainer, Pam Smith, will be teaching group fitness classes that cover general fitness and strength training. Classes are just \$15 per session. Avoid gym fees and the need for equipment! This is a great way to achieve your fitness goals. All ability levels are welcome! For more information, feel free to call Pam Smith at 248.632.2355.

Fun , Fitness and Fellowship

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am, Youth Room

A Sam Freeman video stretching and strengthening exercise class to improve agility and balance. Work at your own pace. No cost involved, just come and join us.