

THE PRISM

The First Presbyterian Church
(Seventh & Madison Streets)
P.O. Box 976, Charleston, IL 61920
217-345-2335

September, 2008

www.charlestonpcusa.org

WORSHIP RETURNS TO 10:30 a.m. ON SEPTEMBER 7

We will return to our regular Sunday morning schedule on September 7. Worship will move back to **10:30 a.m.** Sunday school begins at 9:00 a.m. and coffee fellowship will be 10:00 a.m.

CHOIR RESUMES SEPT. 7

Choir rehearsal will resume on Sunday, September 7, at 8:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

At 10:30 a.m. we will welcome back our choir in worship. If you like to sing and have been thinking about joining the choir, now is a good time!

New members are welcome!

Worship on the Lawn is this Sunday, August 31

At 10:00 a.m. we will gather under a tent on the church lawn for worship.

Then at 11 a.m. we'll enjoy a catered lunch by Niemerg's from Effingham.

We've planned for a minimum of 100 people. So be sure to come to worship and stay to eat!

You may wish to bring your own lawn chair. We'll have folding chairs, too!

Join us this Sunday for one of the year's favorite events!

NEW PHOTO DIRECTORIES

are available on the table in the Narthex. A donation of \$5.00 would help to offset the cost of printing them. Thank you to Deborah Woodley for taking our pictures!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY MEETS SEPTEMBER 29

If you like to knit or would like to learn how, please join us at 6:30 p.m. at the church!

HELP PURCHASE A NEW PIANO FOR WORSHIP

We use our sanctuary piano each Sunday for congregational singing and special music. Our current piano was built in the 1930's, but has deteriorated and no longer stays in tune.

Earlier this summer, the Stewardship and Finance Committee voted to direct memorial gifts received for three choir members towards purchasing a new piano.

To date over **\$4,500** has already been received. If you would like to make a special gift to help make this purchase possible, please write "Piano" in the memo line of your check.

RECYCLING YOUR ALUMINUM CANS...

helps both the environment and the youth group. Many youth activities are funded by money earned from recycled cans. You can help by tying your cans in a plastic bag and placing them in the green box found in the northeast corner of the parking lot.

PICNIC AND EIU FOOTBALL GAME
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Tickets are available for the EIU vs. Indiana State game from Tom Over. Meet at the O'Brien Stadium "grove" area on Grant Avenue at 4:00 p.m. for a picnic. In case of rain come to Morton Park! Game begins at 6:00 p.m.

We will provide grilled burgers, brats, chicken, buns, condiments, drinks, plates, cups, utensils.

Please bring your friends and family, a side dish to share, and your favorite lawn chair.

Ticket prices are: Youth (age 4 through High School): \$5; Adults: \$15
If we have 20 persons, we will get the "group discount." So, invite a friend!

Please sign up in the Parlor by September 9 for the tickets you'll need and the food you plan to bring; give money for tickets to Tom Over or leave in the church office.

BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED
SEPTEMBER 7 AT 10:00 a.m.

During coffee hour, we will celebrate everyone who has a September birthday. Please stay and join others in the parlor to sing "Happy Birthday" and enjoy some light refreshments. Everyone is welcome!

MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETS
SEPTEMBER 7, 8:00 a.m.

We will meet in the downstairs social hall at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 7. Please join us for fellowship. We'll cook breakfast together in our newly remodeled kitchen.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE BEGINS WORK FOR 2009

On August 3 a congregational meeting was held for the purpose of electing a Nominating Committee. Members include Charlie Jarrell, Carolyn Witmer, Tom Over, Barbara Warmoth and Mary-Nance Miller, deacon. Rev. Jeff Grote and Jan Mandernach from the Administrative Commission will also serve on this committee.

The committee will be meeting in early September, including one Saturday retreat in Shelbyville, and hopes to have a slate of church officers ready by mid-October. The August 24 and August 31 Sunday bulletins included a form explaining the qualities and responsibilities of elders and deacons and inviting you to submit suggestions to the committee. Please take time to return these to the church office no later than Friday, September 5.

Please keep the work of the nominating committee in your prayers. And, if one of its members contacts you sometime this month, please be prepared to listen carefully and prayerfully to their invitation to serve on the congregation's leadership team.

NEW CONFIRMATION CLASS

Please keep

- Gage Kile and his mentor, Harold Groff;
- A.J. Shepard and his mentors, Don and Judy Booher; and
- Kenton Banyai and his mentor, Betty Dodson,

in your prayers as they learn more about the Reformed faith in Confirmation Class.

Our first field trip will be on Sunday, September 7, when we will attend 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church.

COLES COUNTY CROP WALK:

Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty

Saturday, October 4: Get some exercise! Meet new people! Help feed the hungry! Sign up for CROP WALK with Betty Dodson (348-5596). You'll enjoy being a walker or a sponsor. **This year's walk begins and ends at First Presbyterian Church!**

GIVING IS GOOD

The simple affirmation that you can "afford" to contribute to the needs of others is empowering, whether the sum is great or small. People who are enriched by their giving know the simple truth that generosity is the greatest joy.

*The Presbyterian Outlook,
August 18/25, 2008, pg. 15*

BEST WISHES TO

- Katie McNitt and David Nadrchal who were married August 9 in our sanctuary.
- Will Juriga and Larysa Pavlyuk who were married August 16 in our sanctuary.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH AND SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

If you are interested in serving, but have never volunteered, then speak to Pastor Jan to hear what it's all about! Children's Church provides a time for younger children to engage in meaningful activities while their parents worship. Sunday school teachers sometimes need a Sunday off and your help is needed!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES

The 2008-2009 Horizon Bible study is ***Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor.*** Copies are \$6.00 each. Please contact Sue Scott, Edie Floyd or the church office if you would like one.

Morning Circle meets at 10:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday, September 9, at the home of Sue Scott, 1715 Douglas Drive, 345-5397.

Evening Circle meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday, September 16, at the home of Kathy Cerven, 2605 4th Street, 345-9303. Both circles are looking for additional women to join.

2009 MISSION YEARBOOKS

Presbyterian Women will be coordinating an order of 2009 Mission Yearbooks. If you would be interested in having one for prayer and study please notify the church office or Edie Floyd. The Mission Yearbook is available to read online each day at www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook.

PW GENERAL MEETING AND KITCHEN SHOWER

Presbyterian Women will hold a general meeting and kitchen shower at **9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 27**. All women of the congregation are invited to attend. Alice Christianson from Kemmerer Village will tell us about their mission. Items needed for our new kitchen are registered at Wal-mart. Online – go to “wish list” instead of “registry” at the lefthand bottom of the page. First name: **Presbyterian**; Last name: **Church**; State: **Illinois**. In the store, go to the jewelry area and you can print a copy of the list. Gifts of cash are welcome, too. Please DO NOT WRAP the items!

BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATE

...In & Around the Church

In addition to the new kitchen, several other projects have been completed over the summer and more will happen during September.

- New handrails for the west steps into the church office have finally arrived and are installed. Completion of this project has been delayed due to problems with the powder-coating of the metal and health problems with the vendor.
- Emergency lighting has been placed in all hallways and many rooms throughout the building so that we are safer in case of a power outage at night. These lights were mandated by our insurance provider as well as fire codes.
- Additional lighting for some dark exterior parts of the building as well as motion detectors on the interior are being installed after this summer's break-ins. This project will be completed by September 5.
- Beginning after Labor Day weekend, the tower roof will be removed and replaced. This is a \$23,000 project made necessary by rotted beams and deteriorating copper.
- Another project related to the summer's break-in and vandalism is the replacement of several damaged doors throughout the building. This project should be completed within the next six weeks.

What about my pledge to the capital improvement campaign?

To pay a portion of your Capital Campaign Pledge as part of your tithe for the annual budget or to make a special gift toward the tower roof or other projects, please make a note on the memo line of your check so our Financial Secretary can reflect your giving more accurately on quarterly statements.

Questions? Call Kathy Cerven 345-9303

A GIFT OF NEW BIBLES

We believe that God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Belle Banyai, Olivia Roberts, Robert Bullard, Jacob, Natalie and Nikki Shepard recently received the gift of a new Bible in worship. Gage Kile, Kenton Banyai and A.J. Shepard received a new student study Bible at the start of Confirmation Class. May God bless your reading of the scriptures!

SMALL- OR MEDIUM-SIZED BASKETS ARE NEEDED

The Outreach, Fellowship, and Mission Committee is planning a fall alternative gift project and needs donated baskets. Please bring them to the church office.

Keep watching for more information about this year's exciting fall alternative gift project in the October newsletter and in the bulletin.

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS TO STUDY PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

On Sunday, September 21, a new adult study will begin at 9:00 a.m on Paul's letter to the Philippians. The letter to the Philippians will also be the epistle reading in worship from mid-September through mid-October. This study provides background and an overview of Paul's ideas as well as an opportunity to reflect on some of the passages we will be hearing in worship.

The study of our Reformation roots will continue through September 21. Please join us to learn more about the Scottish and English reformations. On August 31 we will look at John Knox and the Scottish Reformation. On September 7 we will return to explore Luther's contribution to the Protestant Reformation and the Augsburg Confession. Then on Sept. 14 we will conclude with English Puritanism and the Westminster Confession.

YOUTH GROUP GATHERS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

On Sunday, September 21, youth in grades 7 through 12 will gather for their first meeting of the new year.

We will meet immediately after worship at 11:30 a.m. and carpool to a service project in our community. Lunch will be provided. We will return to the church for pick-up by families at approximately 1:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office or speak to Pastors Jan or Thomas.

THANK-YOU TO...

- Dick McCausland for installing new bulletin boards along the hallway outside the kitchen. The bulletin boards replace the old kitchen pass-through windows that are now obsolete after our renovations.
- Gladys Honnold for making a new set of paraments for the pulpit and lectern with The Presbyterian Church (USA) symbol. They are beautiful.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED AFFIRMING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS YOUR CHURCH HOME?

When we become members of a congregation, we are affirming that this particular community of Christians is a place where our faith can grow and be nurtured and where we have opportunities to live out our call to be disciples of Jesus Christ in the world.

If you are interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church, please speak to Pastors Jan or Thomas.

HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS AN EXPRESSION OF GRACE

Hospitality to strangers is a theme that runs throughout the Bible. In welcoming strangers, we welcome angels unaware, according to the Letter to the Hebrews. Jesus' own ministry was characterized by acts of hospitality, particularly in table fellowship. When Abraham and Sarah welcome strangers by the oaks of Mamre, they find themselves welcoming angels who leave behind an unexpected blessing.

Hospitality is something we practice each Sunday when visitors attend worship. Some may be students. Others may be new residents. Still others may be visiting friends or relatives.

How we welcome newcomers—how we extend God's hospitality to them—is one way we share God's grace. We encourage you to be alert to newcomers in worship and find ways to welcome them. Each one may just be an angel, whom God has sent to us with unexpected blessings!