



Steeplelight

September 2008

Pancakes, Sunday School, and Rally

While parents and teachers are busy preparing for the opening of the academic school year, our new superintendents, Jenn Morrow and Mike Mears are busy with the beginning of the Sunday School year.

Rally Day signifies the kick-off for children and adults to begin their biblical studies.

Join us on Sunday, September 7 beginning at 8:30 a.m. starting with registration for Sunday School for children and

adults. Meet the teachers and have an pancake breakfast and fellowship before the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

There are still volunteer opportunities available. If you are interested, contact either Jenn or Mike.

Calling all Third Graders!

Sunday, September 21, third graders will receive their Bibles during the Worship Service. Plan now to be there.

Youth Group Kick Offs

PJ Drost, our new director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries, has been busy this summer planning an exciting and full schedule for the fall. All youth in

grades 6th through 8th are invited to attend a kick-off event on Friday, September 5. The kick-off for the High School youth is Sunday, Sept. 7.

If you have not received information in the mail, please contact PJ at pjdrost@gmail.com or the church office.

Inside this issue:	
Pastor's Message	2
Wednesday Bible	3
Alpha sign-up	3
Trustee update &	4
Church Mouse	5
Women's	6
Calendar	7

Special Points of Interest

- Bible Study opportunities
- Fellowship Opportunities for all
- VBS picture highlights
- Memorial Garden progress

Message from our Pastor.....

Dear Friends,

There is positive change in the air here at First Presbyterian. The Lord has given so much to us, in so many ways. And so many of you are responding to His blessings, with a new spirit of *giving* and a new way of *living*.

A very well attended Vacation Bible School (more than 70 children) was a joyful culmination to a summer that included other highlights, particularly the Youth Mission Trip, coordinated by our new CED and Youth Director, PJ Drost. Throughout the summer, a genuine spirit of caring was multiplied by the continuing ministries of Operation Hope, Habitat and the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. The memorial garden began to take shape -- with the brick work of the columbarium matching the walls of the chapel almost perfectly. Each summer Sunday worship service has been unique in some way, small or great. Guest preachers and soloists have offered spiritual *food* to God's people -- and to the glory of God.

Now we "gear up" for a new program year, of learning and giving, beginning on *Rally Sunday, September 7*. Registration for Sunday School has already begun. Choir will begin rehearsing soon, on Thursday evenings, with some new members coming aboard -- and others, welcome! The *Alpha* program will be re-introduced on Monday mornings at 9:30, starting on September 15, and if there is sufficient interest, an evening program will be offered, as well, also on Mondays -- this time, with a new and gifted facilitator, Kim Hill. (See information on page 3). The Wednesday Bible study will re-begin, this time focusing on the gospel of John, starting on September 17. And Outreach Committee is introducing a new lunchtime program (see article on page 6).

But as always, at the heart of anything we do and say is the moment on a Sunday morning, when humbly we all *bend the knee to our Lord and God* -- and ask His wisdom and direction for our daily lives, our families, our world. We hear His Word, and break the bread of life. Tell someone, today, about the ministries of First Presbyterian Church -- for *people need the Lord!*

Blessings! Edward F. Duffy, Pastor

Wednesday Bible Study

Starts September 17, 2008

From the program series:

The Bible: Book by Book Gospel of John

Though the Gospel of John has so often been used to introduce non-Christians to Christ because of its easy-to-understand language and style, there is much more to the book. The simplicity of its style conceals a complexity and depth unmatched in the New Testament. John takes simple concepts such as light, bread and water and illuminates them with the most profound truths the word has ever known. The ten sessions cover the twenty-one chapters of John as follows:

1. Revealing (ch.1)
2. Teaching (ch. 2-3)
3. Working (ch 4-5)
4. Feeding (ch.6-7)
5. Shining (ch. 8-10:21)
6. Dividing (ch. 10:22-12:50)
7. Loving (ch. 13:15-17)
8. Sending (ch. 15:18-17:26)
9. Dying (ch. 18 – 19)
10. Living (ch. 20-21)

Ask About Alpha

Monday Mornings

What is Alpha, anyway?

Alpha is something for anyone with questions - questions about the meaning of life and what happens when we die. Questions like, how do we deal with guilt and forgiveness? Who is Jesus and why does He matter? Alpha is a ten-week opportunity to explore the Christian faith and offer answers to our questions.

We'll meet in the Parlor here at First Presbyterian in a relaxed setting with a little talk and treats, followed by a video presentation and a discussion. You can ask anything - there are no dumb questions, yet there is no pressure to talk. The Alpha course is a positive, engaging experience that originated in London and has spread all over the world to reach over 1.5 million people.

There is no charge for the course. One course is set for Monday mornings at 9:30 beginning September 15, with free child care available. If you are interested, but only available evenings, or if you want more information, please contact Kim Hill at 203-259-2824 or the church office at 203-374-6176. Everyone is welcome!

Trustee Update

The first phase of the Memorial Garden is complete. The brick columbarium and base for the Celtic cross have been built. Our contractor, Outdoor Design, has been most cooperative and helpful. His expert masons have built a brick wall with 52 niches. At some time in the future, he will do the landscaping which consists of a holly hedge enclosing the area between the Chapel and the Sanctuary. A wrought iron gate will be at the entrance.

On Thursday, August 7, Flora Luckhardt and John Crozier's cremains were interred in the columbarium.

The current price of a niche is \$2,000 which includes the bronze name plaque, sealing/unsealing of the niche, and future maintenance. For church members and their families who may experience financial difficulties, the cost may be partially, or wholly, underwritten by the church. Spouses or other closely related individuals will share a column (upper and lower niche) so that their names will be on the same 12 x 14 inch slate top.

For further information or if you wish to select a prepaid niche, contact Pam Huth, Chair-

Additional Summer Projects

Special thanks to Pam Huth, who did a superb job in organizing the Memorial Garden project seeking the help of others, and following through until the job was completed.

During the summer, the Trustees have been hard at work in the following areas.

Exterior Doors Three new metal exterior doors were installed and John Hoffman painted them.

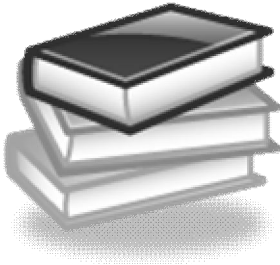
They are the double doors from the Parking Lot to Brooks Hall, the door from the Parlor to the Garth, and the door from the Nursery School to Rear Parking Lot.

Shrubbery Dan Martens and Dave Oelerking teamed up to trim all the shrubbery around the church. Their work gives a clean, cared for image to our grounds. We thank them for the roughly 30 man-hours they worked. Obviously, they have a strong sense of stewardship about our church.

Manse We replaced the kitchen countertops and did some electrical work in the Manse.

Fuel Oil Vince Caprio monitors the prices daily in an effort to get the best prices possible in this very volatile market.

Musings from The Stacks by The Church Mouse



WELCOME BACK! I can't believe that summer has flown by and we are beginning another church year. I hope that your summer proved to be all that you hoped for. Just when I was getting rather bored and out of sorts, I had the most delightful surprise.

I woke one day to the sounds of happy voices, laughter and singing. I went to investigate and saw many very busy children. There were also a lot of adults about and they seemed to have as good a time as the children. I heard someone say that it was Vacation Bible School. I didn't know that anything called school could be such fun. There were children not only from the church family but also from the whole community. It was exciting to see their enthusiasm as they explored the Bible and discovered how to be of service to others and learned practical ways to put their new knowledge to use. The week finished with an ice cream social. Congratulations to all the children and adults who contributed in any way to providing such a joyful, faith-filled week.

Many new books have arrived in the Reading Room during the summer. All of the books from The Women's Retreat are now available. I will discuss specific books during the coming months.

On the table in The Reading Room you will see a display of free pamphlets. The one for September is called "Wonderful Names of Our Wonderful Lord". It discusses all the biblical references to God's name and has a bible reading as well as a little devotional for each passage. These booklets are yours to take and keep. There is a limited number available so do come in for one.

There will be a suggestion box on the desk in The Reading Room. Please put in the names of any books that you would like to see as well as any ideas to make The Reading Room more accessible to you.

Again welcome back to all and I hope to see you soon.

The Women's Association

(We have a purpose.)

The Women's Association is not a gathering,
Of women who just like to chit-chat.
We don't all gather together,
To talk about this and about that;

Oh, no! we are very committed,
To support missions in various ways.
Our shut-ins are not forgotten,
We visit and remember their birthdays.

The World Service group continues sewing,
They've made puppets and Johnny coats ga-lore,
We donate to our library and Salvation Army,
Church Women United and Oh! so much more!

The monthly bible Study keeps us grounded,
Reminding us to grow and grow in the Lord.
The Least Coin has collected millions,
For worthy causes, it has soared and soared!

So you see we have a purpose,
Our goal is to accomplish to believe.
With God in the center we'll continue,
To grow, to support, to achieve!

"Long Live the Women's Association"

Join the Women's' Association on Sept. 17 for a **Pot Luck Supper in the parlor** at 6:30 p.m. After a short business meeting, Donna Lou Anderson will present a program on her travels through Mexico filled with ethnic mementos and music of that fascinating culture! This promises to be a most interesting, informative and colorful presentation!!

All "Church women and men" are invited!
Dessert will be served. Hope to see you!

Outreach

The **Outreach Committee** has decided to undertake a new approach to the programs and services that it provides. In our continued effort to reach out to potential new members while providing programs of interest to our members, finding topics of general interest to all areas of our larger community is difficult. Instead we will try to reach out to smaller groups that have a common denominator—such as those who are retired, parents or those who share a particular problem.

Presently on the drawing board for the fall months are a Saturday morning workshop on depression, to be presented by a noted author on the subject and a monthly "Soup, Sandwich and Study" opportunity for those who may be available during the day. Included in the latter program are a slide presentation entitled "A Victorian Scot Paints 'the Gorgeous East': David Roberts in Egypt and the Holy Land" and a movie entitled "Pigeon Feathers" by John Updike.

Specifics and registration opportunities will be available through information in the local papers and in the Sunday bulletin.

September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Office Closed	2 9:30 am Women's Assoc. 7:30 pm Mis- sion mtg	3 7 pm BSA 10 7:30 pm Trustee Meeting	4 9 am Sewing 9:30 am Prayer Mtg 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 S&F mtg	5 6:30 p.m. Middle School YG Kick-off	6 10 a.m. Paint Youth Room
7 9: am Bible Class 10 am Worship 11:am Coffee hr 6:30 HS YG kick- off	8 7:30 p.m. Session mtg	9 10:30 am Miriam Circle 7:30 pm Ruth Circle	10 7:00 pm BSA 10	11 9 am Sewing 9:30 am Prayer Mtg 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	12 6:30 p.m. Middle School YG	13 Operation Hope meal prep 3 pm HS YG Corn Maze
14 9: am Bible Class 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee hr 11 a.m. Fellow- ship mtg	15 10:30 am Alpha 7:30 pm Outreach	16	17 10:30 am Bible Class 7:00 pm BSA 10 6:30 pm Women's Assoc Pot Luck	18 9 am Sewing 9:30 am Prayer Mtg 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	19	20 8:15 a.m. Habitat Wk Day 3 pm Middle Sch YG Corn Maze
21 9: am Bible Class 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am Deacon 6:30 HS YG mtg	22 10:30 Alpha 7:30 pm CE & D 7:30 pm Worship	23	24 10:30 am Bible Class 7 pm BSA 10	25 9 am Sewing 9:30 am Prayer Mtg 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	26 6:30 p.m. Middle School YG	27 8:15 a.m. Habitat Wk Day 10 am Presby Meeting Immigration
28 9 am Bible Class 10 am Worship 11:am Coffee 6:30 HS YG mtg	29 10:30 Alpha	30				

New! Supper Club at First Presbyterian

Great things happen over food!

Join a Supper Club and enjoy being with others with similar interests, experiences, and locations. (See the sign-up sheets at the Fellowship Table on Rally Day, September 7.)

Your group decides when and where to meet (at least 4 times between October and April).

Contact Patti Law at pattilaw@sbcglobal.net or 386-1984 if you have questions. Sponsored by your Fellowship Committee.

First Presbyterian Church
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Coming Events in October:

- Youth Group Retreat
- World Communion Sunday
- Congregational meeting
- Special Stewardship Program
- Soup, sandwich and study