

The Community Connection

Inspiration & Information for People on the Journey

Volume IV • Issue 9

aWelcomingChurch.org

September 2009

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • LAKE CRYSTAL, MINNESOTA

“A House of Prayer for All Peoples”

STILL UP IN THE AIR

Reflections from the Pastor's Study

BLAST-OFF 2009

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 MARKS THE START OF THE NEW FALL SEASON OF FAITH FORMATION

And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away on a journey, when you are lying down and when you are getting up again. Tie them to your hands as a reminder, and wear them on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

SCHEDULE FOR “BLAST-OFF SUNDAY”

| | |
|------------|--|
| 8:45-9:00 | Sing With Me (Kids) |
| 8:45-9:00 | Registration (Parents) |
| 9:00-9:15 | Walk With Me (Kids & Parents) |
| 9:15-9:40 | Crafts and Games (Kids) |
| 9:15-9:40 | Extended Time of Fellowship (Parents) |
| 9:40-10:00 | Juice and Snacks (Kids) |
| 10:00 | Celebration of Worship including Communion |

NORMAL SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR BLAST

As most of you know, “BLAST” is what we call our Sunday school at First Presbyterian Church. “BLAST” is an acronym for Bible Learning And Singing/Serving Together. The normal Sunday morning schedule for BLAST is as follows:

8:45-9:00 Sing With Me

Children and young people meet in the Music Room for singing led by Jessica Conover and/or Randy Lubbers. Join us in “singing a new song to God” with contemporary songs, hymns, scripture songs, and music from around the world.

9:00-9:40

Walk With Me

After the time of gathering and singing, each class walks with their teacher to a classroom for a time of classroom learning (often mixed with a variety of age-appropriate activities). The Walk With Me curriculum and prayerful, caring teachers help kids learn the story of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. Our objective is to nurture the faith of kids within the context of a caring community.

9:40-10:00

Food & Fellowship

Teachers are expected to dismiss their students on time! And we hope children and parents alike will hold them accountable for that expectation. ☺ Parents of younger children (i.e., second grade and younger) are expected to pick up their children from their classrooms promptly at 9:45 so that families (and our teachers) may have time to share in the time of “connections and conversations” in the Fellowship Hall.

10:00

Worship

Worship is the most important thing we do. It is the most integral part of our common life together. In worship we praise God together, we pray together, we sing together, we confess together, we share forgiveness and reconciliation and healing together, we are fed by God's Word together, we give thanks together, we share the sacraments together, we make and renew promises together. Children and young adults bring special gifts to worship and grow in their faith through their regular participation and inclusion in worship.

EVERY MEMBER A MINISTER

...Bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all....

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift....

...To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

FROM EPHESIANS 4:2-7, 12

Our church has one "minister of the Word and sacrament" who is called to be pastor and teacher. And we have many, many people called to be teachers, including, by virtue of their office, all those ordained as elders. But we have not one, not ten, not twenty... but *hundreds* of ministers!

Each member of the church is bound to each other like cords in a strong rope. We are all called to mentor each other in the faith, called to pray with and for each other, called to teach each other, called to encourage each other and build each other up. Pastors, elders, and teachers especially are called to equip the whole congregation to do God's work and to build up the church, the body of Christ. But all members have a ministry—an arena of service, mission, sharing of gifts, working together, *being* together—to which they have been called by God. At First Presbyterian Church Lake Crystal there should be no spectators—not a one! We are all called to be active participants.

Last month we printed a list of possible gifts, ministries, "arenas of service" as a way to get you thinking of an answer to the question, "How has God called me to serve in the church?" This month we are reprinting the list... with a few additions... and I am going to challenge each of you to think and pray about this!

Here's the reprint from last month:

Through the Holy Spirit, all Christians have been given spiritual gifts and graces. What are your gifts? Where is God calling you to serve? Has the Spirit filled your heart with the vision for a new ministry at First Presbyterian Church? Anyway, without further ado... here's that list...

- After-school tutoring for children
- Banners
- Constructing a set for the Christmas play
- Designing a "prayer room"
- Extending an invitation to a friend or neighbor
- Funding free Wednesday evening meals for 13 weeks
- Gardening – growing veggies for those in need
- Helping, Hospitality, Hugging, Healing
- Inviting others to help...
- Joyfully offering to share a "gift" not on this list
- Kitchen duty for coffee-time or some other event
- Landscaping the church grounds
- Mentoring new members
- Newsletter articles and/or news releases

- Organizing our historical records and artifacts
- Painting projects, painting banners, painting class
- Quilting, or teaching others to quilt
- Reading scripture in worship
- Singing in choir
- Teaching a class – we have helpful leaders' materials
- Ushering – or greeting people at the doors
- Vision for the future
- Washing windows
- XL or XXL tee-shirts for kids to use while painting
- Youth retreat planning and/or chaperoning
- Z – Um, insert your idea here: _____
- Affirming others
- Baking cookies
- Cooking meals
- Decorating cakes to give to new residents
- _____
- Prayer ministries
- _____
- **Teaching a BLAST class for a full year, knowing that substitutes are available for those times when you need to take a "week off."** ☺

Glad to be on the journey with you,

Randy

THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

needs your input. Please submit your announcements, articles, thoughts, news bits, thank you notes, joys and concerns, and any ideas you have to either Rhonna or Randy.

Rhonna: presbch@hickorytech.net

Randy: rlubbers@hickorytech.net

DEADLINE FOR NOTES AND
ARTICLES
FOR THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER
IS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

*First Presbyterian Church
Schedule for the Lord's Day*

8:45-9:00 AM – BLAST “SING WITH ME”

9:00-9:40 AM – BLAST “WALK WITH ME”

9:30-9:59 AM – FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

BLAST DISMISSAL @ 9:40 AM

10:00-11:00 AM – CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

EVERY LORD'S DAY IS A CELEBRATION

OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 6 – JOINT W / UNITED METHODIST

- **10:30 AM - JOINT WORSHIP**
WITH OUR FRIENDS AT FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH (ONE BLOCK
NORTH ON CRYSTAL STREET)
INCLUDING THE CELEBRATION OF THE
LORD'S SUPPER
- **11:45 AM – POTLUCK LUNCH**
WITH OUR METHODIST FRIENDS
IN OUR FELLOWSHIP HALL

SEPTEMBER 13 – CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY

- “BLAST-OFF” SUNDAY: FAITH
FORMATION ACTIVITIES BEGIN THIS
WEEK FOR ALL AGES
- CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION
- COMMISSIONING OF FAITH FORMATION
TEACHERS, LEADERS, AND HELPERS
- ECHO FOOD SHELF SUNDAY
- WEEK ONE IN THE FALL SERIES, “SPACE
FOR GOD,” A WEEKLY SERIES ABOUT
PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY AND HOW IT
ALL RELATES TO OUR EVERYDAY LIVES!
○ “MAKING SPACE 4 UR BFF”

SEPTEMBER 20

- SPACE FOR GOD, WK 2 (“I BELONG!”)

SEPTEMBER 27

- SPACE FOR GOD, WK 3 (“THANK YOU!”)

Rides to Worship for September:

John and Linda Othoudt @ 726-2007

Ushers for September:

Kent, Dominic and Dawson Franklin & Tom Hamberg

Worship Attendance:

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|-------------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| August 1 st Sunday | 75 | 85 |
| August 2 nd Sunday | 64 | 72 |
| August 3 rd Sunday | 110 | 61 |
| August 4 th Sunday | 73 | 57 |
| August 5 th Sunday | 66 | 108 (Joint w/ Methodists) |

Newsletter online:

The monthly newsletter is now online at our church web home: aWelcomingChurch.org. Please call Rhonna @ 726-2877 if you'd like to read it on the web and not receive a paper copy.

September Birthdays

| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 4 | Donald L Williams |
| 6 | Charlie Knakmuhs |
| 8 | Jodi Dahms |
| 8 | LaVern Williams |
| 9 | Parker Miller |
| 12 | Krista Anderson |
| 17 | Chuck Norgaard |
| 19 | Dirk Dirksen |
| 20 | Samantha Davis |
| 21 | Paul Riewe |
| 21 | Rose Tinklenberg |
| 24 | Brad Owens |
| 25 | Tanner Drysdale |
| 26 | Tyler Hughes |
| 27 | Francis Karels |
| 28 | Joyce H. G. Hughes |

September Wedding Anniversaries

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Stan and Judie Edwards | September 5, 1964 |
| Dean and Patti Roberts | September 6, 1975 |
| John and Janice Fredericksen | September 20, 1952 |
| Dee and Ernie Freier | September 22, 1950 |
| Kristoffer and Karla Dutton | September 23, 2005 |
| Jason and Nikki Fredericksen | September 24, 1993 |

CONTACT INFORMATION

Administrative Assistant: Rhonna Nilson

Church Office..... (507) 726-2877

E-mailpresbch@hickorytech.net

Office Hours..... Monday – Friday 8:30 AM 'til noon

Pastor & Teacher: Rev. Randy Lubbers

Home.....(507) 726-2477

Mobile (nearly 24/7).....(507) 317-9814

E-mail.....rlubbers@hickorytech.net

Team Chairpersons & Other Important Phone Numbers

Worship Team ~ Chair Laurel Davis726-2885

Community Life Team ~ Chair Karri Fredericksen726-2364

Christian Faith Formation Team ~ Chair Bob Williams549-3759

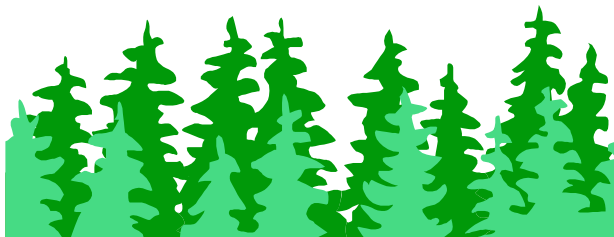
Mission and Service Team ~ Chair Eileen Anderson947-3131

Building & Property Committee ~ Chair Tom Hamberg726-6484

Stewardship and Budget Committee ~ Chair Lori Hood.....726-6568

Nominating Committee ~ Chair Sandy Karels.....726-2858

Jay Richardson (Custodian).....726-6803 Cell: 384-1082



Members living at Country Neighbors (Lake Crystal)

Borgie Johnson

Dorothy Anderson

Member living at The Towers (Lake Crystal)

Paul Peterson

Members in Crystal Seasons (Lake Crystal)

Lois Roberts

Velma Collis

Dirk & Bicky Derksen

Members at Pathstone Living Center (Mankato)

Margaret Carr

Member is Rochester Health Care Center (Rochester)

Katherine Larson



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

The Presbyterian Women have named a Local Service Chairman for each month of the year. To help serve at a funeral or to volunteer to bake cakes please call the Local Service Chairperson.

LOCAL SERVICE CHAIRPERSONS

September: Rose Tinklenberg @ 507-642-2870

October: LaVola Lewis @ 726-6257

SOUP LABELS

Saving Campbell Soup Labels benefit the Presbyterian Camp on Lake Okoboji (IA). Campbell Soup Label collection box can be found in the church kitchen on the wire racks.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Clipping Box Tops for Education from hundreds of your favorite products earns cash for our school. Each box top is worth 10cents. A collection box is in the kitchen on the wire racks.

PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT offers a special link between congregations and communities around the world. Buying fair trade coffee through the Presbyterian Coffee Project ensures that more of the money we spend on coffee reaches the hardworking farmers who actually grow it. Fair trade is a simple solution that means the difference — quite literally — between surviving and not surviving for small-scale coffee farmers. First Presbyterian Church now participates actively in the Equal Exchange Program which is an employee-owned Fair Trade Organization. We are now using fair trade coffee in our kitchen and offering it for sale to our congregation at a price of \$7.00 for regular breakfast blend, hazelnut, or decaf blend. There are also assorted tea flavors for sale at \$4 per box. There is a display in the Fellowship Hall where you may pick up coffee or tea and leave payment in the basket or give payment to Rhonna in the office. Any questions? Contact a deacon!

THE 2009 WELSH HYMN FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS will be held at 2:00pm on Sunday, September 27, at First Presbyterian Church, Hickory and Broad, Mankato. The event is open to all who enjoy music. It will provide the opportunity for all in the congregation to sing and hear traditional Welsh hymns in 4-part harmony. The Conductor will be Mary Morris Mergenthal, St. Paul. The Performing Choir will be the St. Peter Choral Society under the direction of Sara Hayden McKay, St. Peter. There is no admission charge.

FARMERS MARKET NOW IN OPERATION

Lake Crystal Farmers Market will be held each Friday through the end of the season from 2-5 pm in the parking lot just east of Collis C Store on Highway 60. The market includes vegetables, fruits, honey, farm fresh eggs, baked goods, crafts, candles and more! For more information contact Barb Overlie at 642-8098 or Rose Tinklenberg at 507-642-2870.

MINUTES

THE SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LAKE CRYSTAL, MINNESOTA STATED MEETING—AUGUST 18, 2009

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

The stated meeting of session was called to order with prayer and responsive reading from Psalms 86 by Randy Lubbers, Moderator on Tuesday, August 18, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

Elders Present: Eileen Anderson, Laurel Davis, Kent Franklin, Karri Fredericksen, Lori Hood, Janet Knakmuhs, Tom Hamberg, Bob Williams and Sandra Karels. Elders Excused: Annette Farrell. Guests Present: Joan Hughes and Jay Richardson

PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION OF SESSION MATTERS, TEAM REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Building & Property: MSC to approve recommendation from the Building and Property Committee to repaint the choir loft and church sanctuary at the bid of \$6,400 with the work to be completed by Reichel Painting Company. The funding for this project will come from the Undesignated Memorial Fund. A Sherwin-Williams consultant assisted with the color selections. MSC be it so resolved that the session expresses gratitude to the Building and Property Committee for following up on previous concerns. We also appreciate all of their hard work on this project. MSC to approve the consent agenda, minutes from the stated meeting on July 14, 2009, and financial report as of July 31, 2009.

Stewardship & Budget: Discussion on the Treasurer position which will be an oversight position. MSC to elect Tom Hamberg to the office of Treasurer effective August 1, 2009. Compensation for this position will be determined in the 2010 budget with retroactive compensation back to August 1, 2009. MSC to purchase a license for accounting software at a cost \$185, which is a one-time fee.

Nominating Committee: The committee met on August 4 and determined a proposed action plan and timetable. On August 7 letters were sent to the congregation inviting all members to be involved in prayer, discernment, and the process of making suggestions to the Nominating Committee. At its next meeting on September 15, the Nominating Committee will review the suggestions received from the congregation, share the results of their own discernment processes, select a slate of nominees, and begin face-to-face contact of those potential nominees.

The Committee hopes to present the final slate to the session at the November session meeting. MSC to schedule a Congregation Meeting on November 15 at 11:00am for the purpose of election of officers.

Building & Property: Tom Hamberg reported that the cavity work under front entry has been completed.

The annual inspection of the manse has been completed. Leaf guards were purchased from Richards Seamless Gutters at a cost of \$518 for the south side of church building.

Community Life (Fellowship) Team: The church picnic was well attended on July 26. Proof-reading of the new church cookbook has been completed.

Mission & Service Team: School supplies for LCWM to provide to families in need have been purchased at a cost of \$180, with team members also contributing. Kent Franklin gave an update on the church website and also discussed online newsletter options.

Worship Team: Joint worship (with communion) at First United Methodist on September 6 (Labor Day Weekend) at 10:30am followed by a potluck lunch at 11:45am at the First Presbyterian Fellowship Hall (handicap accessible). Fall sermon series beginning September 13 will be an adaptation of *Space for God* by Don Postema. A note of thanks is to be sent to Laurie Herman and the NOW Praise Team from the Rosemount United Methodist Church for their uplifting musical worship service on Aug 16.

Christian Faith Formation Team: Meeting scheduled for Sunday, August 23 at 8am. BLAST begins September 13 at 8:45am. Bible School was held at Zion Lutheran on August 11-13 and was poorly attended this year. The team will review this for next year and may propose another option. Coffee hours need volunteers. The sign-up schedule is in the Fellowship Hall.

Pastors Report: Discussion regarding guidance on the Discretionary Fund.

DISMISSAL: Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00pm. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Karels, Clerk of Session