

back to
School



August 2011

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First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee

THE BELLTOWER

NOTICE

WITH SCHOOL RESUMING SOON, BE EVER MINDFUL IN YOUR DRIVING, OF CHILDREN AND SCHOOL BUSES.



Vacation Bible School was a huge success this year! We combined forces with John 3:16 and had between 13 and 19 children each day.

The children learned about Native American Indians, eating Hopi Indian Stew, nuts and berries, and they made an Indian Headdress and bracelet. They visited Greece and had meatballs, grapes and figs.

Germany was also studied, with apple cake and ice cream for Germany .

The kids had a great time and learned a great deal. Thank you to all that made this year's VBS a success.

Staff

Guest Pastors
In the Pulpit

Director
Of Music Ministry
Paul Johnson

Treasurer
Dan Pitkin

Secretary
Kathie Grazis

Nursery Attendant
Tina Pitkin

PRESBYTERIAN PEARLS FROM THE PAST

A local newspaper reported that with the new additions onto the original building "The Presbyterian Church looks like a dry goods box".

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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July 03, 2011

****NOTE: MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING ****

Moderator: Rev. Alvin Abbott
net

Clerk: Mary Elise Bur-

Present: Rev. Alvin Abbott-Moderator, Jeanne Chapman, Bonnie Bergeron, Thomas Pitkin, Ron Armstrong, Chris Young, Judy Markham, and Dan Pitkin .

Meeting opened with prayer at 11:55AM

The minutes from the June 5, 2011 meeting were read and approved without changes. Motion to approve: Judy Markham and seconded by Chris Young. Motion was carried.

REPORTS:

Building & Grounds: Met with Personnel committee to discuss Nick's job performance and how to improve it. The job description will be reviewed. Building and Grounds will supervise his performance and report to Personnel who will over see it.

Personnel: No recommendation as to whether to retain Nick in his present position because the committee had not met to discuss and make an overall recommendation to session.

Christian Education: Plans are still being developed for adult education during the summertime. Vacation Bible School will be held from July 25-29 and center on an International Theme.

Stewardship & Finance: An audit is completed and a report packet will be given to session members. We currently have \$57,000 more in the finances than was thought. This was discovered when the old auditing process was converted to the new process. The IRS audit is free and clear. Dan made a motion that we compose a letter to move the money from the National City account into the First Trust account, seconded by Judy and the motion carried. Mary Elise will compose the letter.

Old Business: The building policy will be reviewed and a determination will be made as to who would get paid when the church is opened and cleaned up after special occasions.

New Business: A motion was made by Bonnie Bergeron to send Thomas Pitkin as a Youth Advisor to the General Assembly in Pittsburgh, PA in June 2012. Seconded by Chris Young, and the motion carried. All expenses for him to attend would be paid by the Blackhawk Presbytery.

The Kankakee County Visitors Bureau wants to conduct tours of the historic churches around the courthouse. They would like us to participate in this endeavor. Pictures would be taken of church and the history and pictures would be put in the new Visitor's Guide for 2012. All of the above would be of no cost what-so-ever to the church. Motion was made by Tom Pitkin to participate in this endeavor and seconded by Judy Markham. The motion carried.

Bonnie Bergeron made a motion to adjourn , seconded by Chris Young, meeting at 12:35pm.

Respectfully submitted ,

Bonnie Bergeron

IMPORTANT LETTER FROM MARTINA AT GATEWAY COALITION

Dear Gateway Coalition Members:

We have a very important meeting coming up on Wednesday, August 3, 2011, at 3:30pm. We need to discuss the future of Gateway Coalition and how we will continue to serve the needy of the Kankakee Area. If at all possible for you, let's meet in the Community Room on the first floor of our office building at 657 E. Court St.

The biggest news is that I am moving to Madison, Wisconsin in September. Of course, I will maintain my interest in and support of the Coalition by way of frequent visits to Kankakee, but I will not be involved in the day-to-day operations.

The Gateway Coalition office has been functioning and receiving referrals from our member churches, and we hope to continue some of this work, but there will have to be some changes. I do have, however, information to share with you about our continuing collaboration with our existing social service agency partners. But we also need YOUR ideas and suggestions about HOW we will function in the future.

Frankly, we need to know your level of interest in the continuation of this ministry, and what your expectations of service from us are.

Perhaps you could recommend someone, possibly from your congregation, who would volunteer on a regular basis, maybe just an hour or two a week, to fill a few important roles? Most of all, we need someone to manage the checkbook(, receive income, pay bills, etc. This takes more organization than time.

If you have any questions please call the Gateway Office at 815-933-5812 or Martina at 815-685-8567.

Blessings in Jesus' Name,
Martina Rippon

THIS AND THAT**COMMON ENGLISH PHRASES FOUND IN THE KING JAMES BIBLE– PART 2:**

Though it cannot be said that all of these phrases *originated* in the Bible, it is likely that the King James Bible was the first time that many of them appeared in English. Here's part of the list, the rest to appear in next month's BellTower. Thanks to Rev. Garton for passing them along!

- Put your house in order (2 Kings 20:1)
- Reap what you sow (adapted from Galatians 6:7)
- See eye to eye (Isaiah 52:8)
- Set your teeth on edge (Jeremiah 31:30)
- Sign of the times (Matthew 16:3)
- Sour grapes (Jeremiah 31:30)
- Sweat of your brow (Genesis 3:19)
- Tender mercies (Psalm 25:6)
- The blind leading the blind (Matthew 15:14)
- The ends of the earth (Zechariah 9:10)
- The root of the matter (Job 19:28)
- The powers that be (Romans 13:1)
- The salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13)
- The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak (Matthew 26:41)
- The straight and narrow (Matthew 7: 13-14)
- There's nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9)
- Two edged sword (Proverbs 5:4)
- Voice crying in the wilderness (John 1:23)
- Wages of sin (Romans 6:23)
- Wash your hands of the matter (Matthew 27:24)
- White as snow (Daniel 7:9)
- Woe is me (Job 10:15)
- Writing is on the wall (Daniel 5:5-6)



KIDS & YOUTH



YOUTH GROUP WILL BEGIN AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER AND TO KICK THIS SEASON OFF AN ALL CHURCH PICNIC WITH HORSEBACK RIDING AND HAYRIDE WILL BE HELD. WATCH YOUR BULLETIN FOR DATE AND TIME.

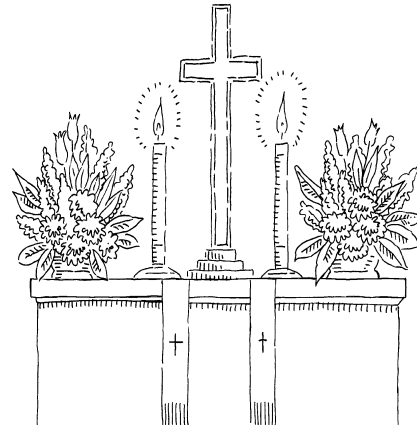
Worship Volunteers 2011

Aug. 7- **Communion Sunday**
Liturgist **Trudy Curtis**
Acolyte **Sophia LaMore**
Ushers **Doug & Sue Barclay**
Communion **Mary Elise Burnett, Chris Young**

Aug. 14
Liturgist **Mary Maddox**
Acolyte **Alexis Zunke**
Ushers **Elizabeth Bauer, Ron Armstrong**

Aug. 21
Liturgist **Kathie Grazis**
Acolyte **Francis Muchemi**
Ushers **Bernadette & Sophia LaMore**

Aug. 28
Liturgist **Bonnie Bergeron**
Acolyte **Billy Pitkin**
Ushers **Richard Logan, Ralph Klein**



Worship Schedule

Aug. 7 – Communion Sunday– Rev. Al Abbott in the pulpit

Aug. 14— Rev. Franklin Garton in the pulpit

Aug. 21— Rev. Franklin Garton in the pulpit

Aug. 28— Rev. Franklin Garton in the pulpit



**Be a part of the
Worship Team!**

Congregational News

PRAYER CONCERNS

Jean Parlin (Heritage Village), **Lorraine Schneider** (Miller Center), **Jack Walters** (In Hospice care at Bickford House), **Nyla Wepprecht** (Bridges at Butterfield), **Charlotte Carney** (Manor Care), **Elizabeth Bauer** (Health Concerns), **Ruth Brooks** (Sue Barclay's mother), **Trudy Curtis** (serious health concerns), **Kay Jones** (NEW Cancer issues), **Mary & Don Maddox**, **Lara Plecas** (Jeanne's daughter, Mother-To-Be), **First Presbyterian Church**, **our country as our government officials make decisions concerning our financial well-being as individuals and as a nation**, **all our Military personnel who continue to serve**, **all of our elderly in our country who continue to struggle with day-to-day life in this economy.**



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Congratulations to Mark & Connie Sands and children, on the birth of the latest member of the family, a boy, Liam Michael Allen Sands. Born at St. Mary's Hospital on July 5,2011, he weighed in at 8 lb. 13 oz. and was 21 " long.

We wish the family the best.

Financials-Year to Date

Actual Giving (July): \$2,158.
Giving for year so far: \$27,417.22
Total Expenses so far: \$88,898.92
Totals: -\$47,556.88



We welcome **Evan Zachary Kosyla** into the church family of First Presbyterian Church. Evan was baptized by Rev. Al Abbott at the July 17th Worship Service. He is the son of Gwen and Zach Kosyla and the grandson of Judy and the late Dan Markham.

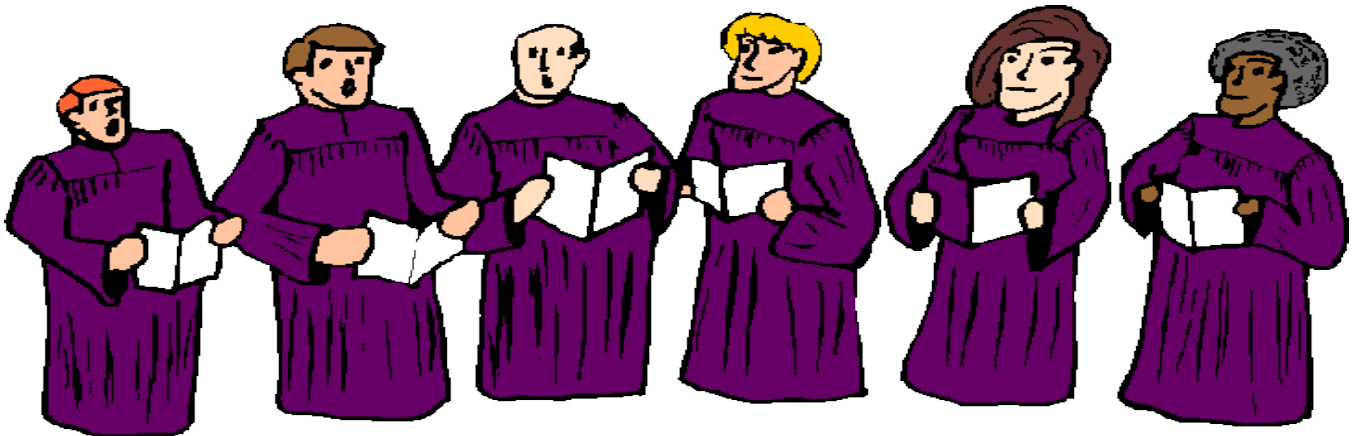
Welcome Evan!



MUSIC NOTES
PAUL JOHNSON
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY



PAUL WILL SEE YOU ALL NEXT MONTH
ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SUMMER



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**We Are A Bridge-Building,
Peacemaking Church!!**

Session

Class of 2011

Bonnie Bergeron
Mary Elise Burnett
Jeanne Chapman

Class of 2012

Judy Markham
Dan Pitkin
Thomas Pitkin (1 yr. term) Vacant

Class of 2013

Shadrack Ndegwa
Chris Young

Deacons

Class of 2011

Bernadette LaMore
Gina Zunke

Class of 2012

Anne Muchemi
Vacant

Class of 2013

Elizabeth Bauer
Tina Pitkin