



First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee

# THE BELLTOWER



## December 2010

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**FREE CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER**

**8 LOCATIONS THIS YEAR.**

**SATURDAY, Dec. 25, 2010**

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED 815-295-1610 FROM NOV. 26-DEC.23. NO CARRYOUTS, DINE- IN ONLY. SERVING FROM 11AM-1PM. SANTA WILL VISIT TOO!**

**SEE INSERT FOR LOCATIONS, ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS.**

### PLEASE HELP

As our congregation attempts to move forward and rebuild, there is a need for all of our members to step up and take on some additional responsibilities in order to continue our regular ministry here.

If you are approached to do a job or take on a new responsibility, please give the request some prayerful consideration. Also, don't be afraid to volunteer to help out with committees and events. It is all of our responsibility to see to it that our church prospers again.

### Staff

Guest Pastor  
Rev. Frank Garton

Director  
Of Music Ministry  
Paul Johnson

Treasurer  
Dan Pitkin

Secretary  
Kathie Grazis

Nursery Attendant  
Tina Pitkin

Comptroller  
Jim Faford

Custodian/Maintenance  
Nick Kupcikevicius

### PRESBYTERIAN PEARLS FROM THE PAST

In 1904 a parsonage or manse (Scottish term for a parsonage) was built at 153 N. Indiana Avenue at the cost of \$6,000 in celebration of the church's 50th anniversary. Some time during the 1950's the YWCA purchased the manse and used the building for its programs. A new manse was purchased on South Evergreen Avenue and was later sold and another purchased on South Elm. In 1957 the church purchased the building back from the YWCA for \$50,000. In 1960 the manse/ YWCA building was razed and the Christian Education Building was dedicated and built on the site.

**Exercise daily...walk with the Lord.**

## A Letter From Your Guest Pastor.....

Once again, for over 2000 times, the season has come round. "It" is again upon us.

"It" is called Advent and celebrated the world over by Christians sharing Scriptures focused on the Birth of Jesus; by singing story carols about prophecies of old; by contemplating the long ago happening of visiting angels, from heaven afar.

"It" is marked by children and adults portraying Magi from Oriental lands; and dressed as Shepherds leaving flocks; walking to Bethlehem Town; making themselves known to weary Mary and Joseph in a cow shed out back of the local inn.

Celebrants imagine a newly born baby, laid in a manger of hay, surrounded by beasts of burden and a menagerie of eastern farm animals— Advent is the time set aside to worship and think afresh of the wondrous gift of Christ the Redeemer, the Messiah given by God to the whole world. Deliberately, we engage in special events to accent the marvelous coming, on that First Advent—Jesus the Christ came in the form of a little child.

The word "Advent" finds its origin in the Latin, "adventus," and it means "coming" or "arrival". By nature, Advent houses a spirit of expectation, anticipation, preparation, and deep longing. Through the centuries, hearts have been filled with a yearning for deliverance and solace found in the coming of Jesus. Feelings of preparation are openly expressed in corporate and private meditation, prayer and worship.

For Christians the world over, Advent is represented by the four Sundays immediately preceding Christmas day. (The 2010 Advent Season began November 28) This period is set apart for spiritual participation for the great occasion we call Christmas. While identified as Advent Sundays, the whole of Advent includes all the days beginning with the First Sunday of Advent and concluding Christmas day.

During Advent, we like Christians from other lands, await Christmas Day by recalling the historical background of the coming of the Christ Child, Emmanuel, Jesus; Our Wonderful Lord!

May the Advent Service here at First Presbyterian contribute to the warmth of your heart and hearth as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

Celebrate with gladness the great promise expressed by Matthew, captured in Jesus' parable of the bridesmaids, anxiously awaiting the coming of the Bridegroom. And join in singing the old, old songs, "*Come, O Come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel!*"

Dr. Franklin Garton, Guest Pastor

**ADVENT READERS ARE NEEDED!  
PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE IF  
YOUR FAMILY IS WILLING TO HELP WITH  
THIS.**

# SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

November 14, 2010

Moderator: Rev. Al Abbott

Clerk: Rebecca Schiltz

Elders Present: Trudy Curtis, Jeannie Chapman, Bonnie Bergeron, Judy Markham, Mary Elise Burnett & Youth Elder, Thomas Pitkin.

Excused: Dan Pitkin

Meeting opened in prayer at 11:47am

Quorum declared.

Approved stated meeting minutes from the Oct. 24 meeting. Motion to approve (Bergeron, Curtis) unanimous carry.

Presentation of potential new member Kathie Grazis. Motion to receive Kathie Grazis into the membership of First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee. (Markham, Chapman) unanimous approval. Motion to accept her in church service on Nov. 28th Sunday service or Dec. 5th. (Markham, Chapman).

## Pastor's Report:

COM's decision on Pastor Garton— Reviewed COM's decision on Pastor Garton. Dr. Garton is to supply pulpit and provide emergent Pastoral Care to the congregation. He is not to moderate meetings, perform sacraments, or to hold office hours.

- Motion to invite newly elected officers to session meeting in January. Set annual meeting, installation of elders, serve communion, hold the February stated session meeting on the first Sunday in February . (Schiltz, Burnett) all approved.

Clerk Report: Membership stated at 77 at start of meeting. Membership at 76 after the approval of transfer below. Membership number will be reflected of Kathie Grazis as she is received in church service by the congregation.

- Approve the transfer of membership of Chloe Frooninckx to the Grace Presbyterian Church in Grove, OK. (Markham, T. Pitkin) unanimous approval.
- Paul Becker is requesting use of the church in the spring for Children's Ministries for a fundraising dinner. Date to be determined. Motion to deny usage because kitchen is not up to code. (Markham, Curtis)
- Paul Becker informed the church he will be worshipping elsewhere with his wife and children.

## Treasurer's Report:

Review of budgeted line items.

## Building & Grounds-

- Motion to appeal to Presbytery to landmark the church as a Historic Building.  
After discussion, motion was made to table the conversation. (T. Pitkin, Bergeron) unanimous carry.
- Update on parking lot

## SESSION MINUTES CONT.

- Update on lighting
- Update on carpet replacement-this has been put on hold for now.
- Richard Logan requested to put up Christmas lights on the bushes outside. Approved with conditions.

### Hispanic Task Force-

John 3:16 is requesting use of Green room in church on Dec.19th to display children's art. (Judy Markham to accept, Curtis) unanimous approval..

Session requests the task force reconvenes and give session report as to revisions in the contract.

### New Business:

- New quote presented from Advanced Computer Specialists, new quote for a quarterly maintenance at \$275. Motion to accept the computer quote. (Chapman, Markham) unanimous approval.
- Sands are requesting the usage for Rian's birthday party on Nov. 21 from 3-5pm in the green room. Motion to grant permission. (T. Pitkin, Curtis) unanimous approval.
- It is being requested that a Spa Day be planned for Women of the Church Coordinators. Motion to accept planning of spa day (Burnett, Bergeron) unanimous approval..
- Tina Pitkin & Jeanne Chapman are requesting a congregational dinner and a movie night on an early evening date or a late Saturday afternoon. Motion to grant request. (Burnett, Markham) unanimous approval..
- Winter Market is requesting use of our parking lot for the weekend market. Motion that for now, no, but if we get the parking lot repaired prior to the end of the winter market season, then we will open it up for their usage. (Schiltz, T. Pitkin) unanimous approval.

Closed meeting with prayer at 3:05pm

Nest stated session meeting, December 12th.



LAUGH A LITTLE...

The Sunday School teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut a steer in pieces, and laid it upon the altar. Then, Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times. "Now", asked the teacher, "Can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?" A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand, "I know! I know!" she said, "To make the gravy!"

## THE SILENT SERMON

*This is very up lifting! You will be blessed by reading it.*

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone and sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then it was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday."

We live in a world today, which tries to say so much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones unspoken.

Find your way back to the church and the people that care about you and love you, and most importantly, to God, who has always, and will always care about you and love you..

### CHURCH TO SPONSER NEEDY FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

The church is sponsoring a very deserving grandmother raising her grandson for this Christmas Season. The food that was in the wagon and a donated turkey has been given to them. The grandmother took legal custody of him when he was 6 yrs. Old and he is now 15. Grandma has a very limited income and cannot afford Christmas presents. Tina Pitkin has a list of clothing needs and an older model computer has been donated also, and is being reconditioned for him. Donations can be made through the weekly offering but should be marked "Christmas Family". Let's see if we can't get this family a good Christmas. Give as you can.



## KIDS & YOUTH



### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM COMING!



The youth of our church will be meeting before church, from 9:15am-10am during their Sunday School time, to rehearse for the Christmas Program. The program will be performed during services on the Sunday before Christmas and also during the Christmas Eve service. They will also perform the program for shut-ins some time during the week before Christmas-more details to follow. It will be exciting to have our youth participating in this way during our Christmas Season this year. Thanks to Tina and Bernadette for putting it all together!

**A BIG** thank you to all those who helped with, purchased goodies and otherwise made the Kids Bake Sale & Cake Walk a great success again this time around. \$229 was raised to benefit the youth program in our church.

Hope all of you that purchased goodies enjoyed them! Thanks to all who put forth the effort to make these offerings!

Also, a huge thank you to Tina & Bernadette for heading it all up again.  
Great work ladies!



Youth Sunday School has once again resumed, as of Nov. 21st. Chris Young has graciously accepted the responsibility of teaching. The group is presently doing "Oops! Your Manners Are Showing!" as well as practicing for the upcoming Christmas Program. Keep Chris in your thoughts and prayers as she takes on this new and important role in the church. Our Youth are our future, we need to see to their spiritual well-being here at First Presbyterian Church. Youth.....come on out and be a part of both Sunday School and Youth Group....you won't be sorry you did!

# Worship Volunteers 2010

## Dec.5-Communion Sunday

Liturgist Chris Young  
 Acolyte Sophia LaMore  
 Ushers Elizabeth Bauer  
 Jeanne Chapman  
 Richard Logan  
 Communion Judy Markham  
 Bob Sowell

## Dec. 12

Liturgist Thomas Pitkin  
 Acolyte Billy Pitkin  
 Ushers Doug Barclay  
 Sue Barclay  
 Chandler Faber

## Dec.19

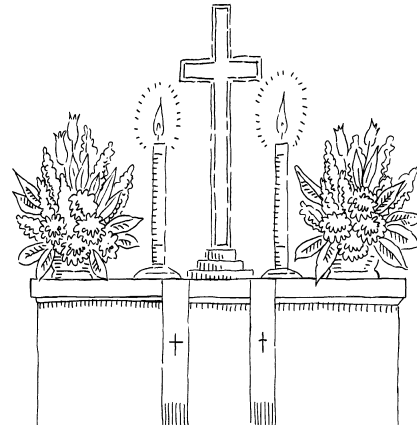
Liturgist Bonnie Bergeron  
 Acolyte Kobe Sands  
 Ushers Jerry Curtis  
 Trudy Curtis

## Dec. 24

Liturgist Readers  
 Acolyte Francis Ndegwa  
 Ushers Ralph Klein  
 Ron Armstrong

## Dec. 26

Liturgist Kathie Grazis  
 Acolyte Alexis Zunke  
 Ushers Richard Logan  
 Judy Markham



## Worship Schedule

**Dec.5– Communion Sunday-2nd Sunday of Advent-Rev. Herb Thompson in the pulpit.**

***“An Urgent Need”***

Is. 11:1-5, Romans 15: 4-6 & 13, Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19

Dec.12– 3rd Sunday in Advent-Rev.

F.Garton in the pulpit.

***“What Do You See?”***

James 5:7-10, Ps. 146: 5-10, Matt. 11: 2-11

Dec.19– 4th Sunday in Advent– Rev. F.

Garton in the pulpit.

***“The Birth Of Jesus The Messiah Took Place This Way”***

Romans 1: 1-7, Ps.80: 1-7, 17-19, Matt. 1: 18-25.

Dec.24– Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Dec.26– 5th Sunday in Advent-Rev. Frank

Garton in the pulpit.

***“Herod, Tricky Wisemen, Joseph & The Angel”***

# Congregational News



## *Prayer List*

### Members & Friends

Ruth Brooks (Sue Barclay's mother)

Craig Froominckx (Chloe's son)

Kay Jones

Gwen Kosyla (new mom)

Mary Maddox

Shirley Maxfield

John Sowell (Bob's brother)

Sandy Sowell

Robert Sowell

Judy Patterson (Will's Stepmom)

Tina Pitkin

Mary Rittmanic (Kathy Patterson's mom)

### Our shut-ins

Charlotte Carney

Bernice Lezotte

Brooks Kerr

Dorothy Kerr

Lorraine Schneider

Arian Tompkins

Jack Walters

Nyla Wepprecht

Linda Wertz



### PLEASE NOTE !!

In this Belltower there is an insert to order Poinsettias. If this is something you wish to do, then please fill out the form and get it into the office. A tentative order must be placed no later than Dec. 11. Thanks.

### **BRING AN ORNAMENT FOR THE TREE IN THE SANCTUARY AND THE HANGING OF THE GREENS THIS YEAR....**

We will be having a tree up in the Sanctuary this year, and if any of you would like to bring an ornament from home and place it you may do so. The tree will not go up until after the Hanging of the Greens which takes place on Dec. 4th from 9am-noon, with a potluck lunch following. Please remember to bring a dish to pass for this luncheon.

### PLEASE-PLEASE-PLEASE!

Those of you on Committees or in charge of trying to get repair or work estimates, if you schedule people to come in to the church to give estimates, etc, please let me know when they are coming. Lately I have had a lot of surprise visitors and it puts me at a disadvantage.

Things cannot run smoothly and have good results if we are not all on the same page. Thanks.

Kathie

## MUSIC NOTES

PAUL JOHNSON

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY



December is almost here, and as I write this letter we are planning the first of the Advent Services. It seems like only a few months ago I was starting as your Director of Music Ministries. While things have not gone exactly as I pictured them going, the changes overall seem to have had a positive effect on the health of the congregation, as well as for myself.

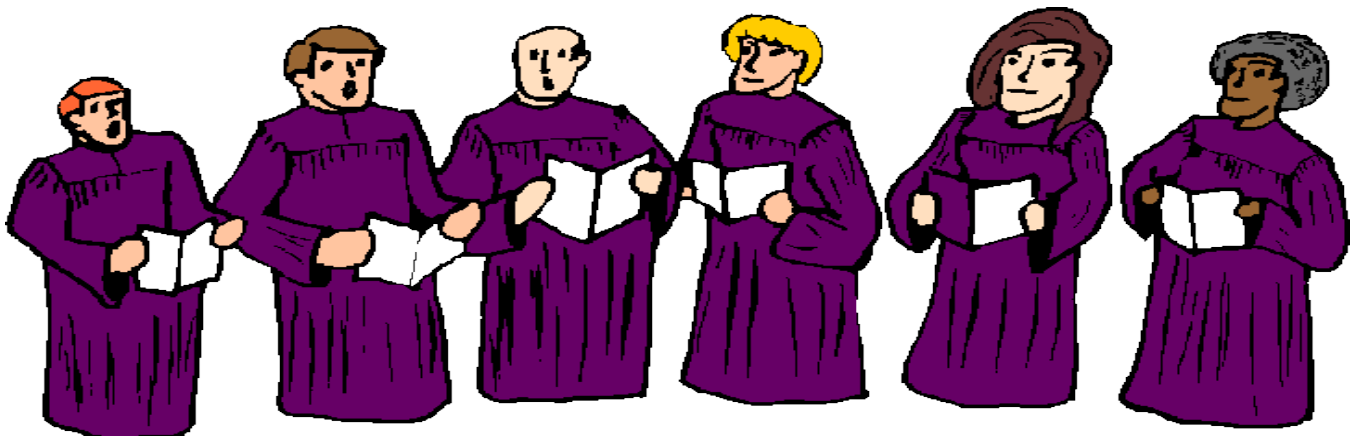
I am thoroughly enjoying working with Dr. Garton. It is a real joy to work with someone who embraces the importance of music in the worship experience so deeply. If you've been in worship recently, you have experienced the difference when the spoken word is tightly integrated with the music. This is all possible because of the great working relationship Dr. Garton and I have. We have a real synergy, respect, and appreciation for each other's gifts. Thank you for bringing him here—I hope he can stay for a while.

We are busy planning Advent services, as well as Christmas Eve service. It will be a service of "Lessons and Carols", and we need YOU to make it work. We need you to read the scriptures, sing either in the choir or perhaps a solo or duet, and play your instrument. A sign-up sheet will be up by November 28th, or you can call the church office or myself and let us know you'd like to be a part of this memorable experience. The service will start at 6pm and be over by 7pm.

Lastly, remember choir practice is at 9am each Sunday morning—hope to see you there.

Have a blessed and jjoyous Holiday Season,

Paul



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

**Session**

*Class of 2010*

Trudy Curtis  
Mary Elise Burnett  
Becky Schiltz

*Class of 2011*

Bonnie Bergeron  
Jeanne Chapman  
In memory-John Hedlin

*Class of 2012*

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

**Deacons**

*Class of 2010*

Liz Bauer  
Chris Young

*Class of 2011*

Bernadette LaMore  
Gina Zunke

*Class of 2012*

Chandler Faber (1 yr. term)  
Anne Muchemi