



# THE BELLTOWER



## March 2011

### Inside This Issue:

<i>Session Minutes</i>	3
<i>General Announcements</i>	4- 5
<i>Kids Page &amp; Youth</i>	6
<i>Worship Schedule</i>	7
<i>Congregational News</i>	8
<i>Music Notes</i>	9
<i>March Calendar (insert)</i>	

As we here at First Presbyterian Church in Kankakee progress into this new year, we need to be prayerfully considering how best we can help our church to move forward and rebuild our strength. The Committees have been restructured, and they need some people with fresh view points and a strong sense of purpose to help this church renew and refresh. Please prayerfully consider becoming a member of one of the Committees and help to bring First Presbyterian Church roaring back to good health and stronger than ever.

The Committees are: *Stewardship*: Judy Markham-Moderator, *Personnel*: Jeanne Chapman-Moderator, *Property*: Tom Pitkin-Moderator, *Nominating*– No Moderator as yet, *Christian Education*: Chris Young– Moderator, *Missions & Outreach*: Shadrack Ndewga-Moderator, and *Worship & Arts*: Bonnie Bergeron-Moderator.

### SUSAN G. KOMEN 3 DAY WALK FOR THE CURE

WILL BE Aug. 5-7, 2011.

One of our Friends of the Church, Paul Becker, will be participating in this event this year in Chicago, walking with his daughter. If you would like to support his effort, there are *Donation Forms* on the table in the Narthex.

All of us know at least one woman who has been touched by breast cancer. If you would like to help make a difference in finding a cure for this devastating disease, make a donation and be part of the solution to this form of cancer that is devastating to women.

### PRESBYTERIAN PEARLS FROM THE PAST

M.W. Staples was the first Pastor of the Kankakee Presbyterian Church.

#### Staff

Guest Pastors  
In the Pulpit

Director  
Of Music Ministry  
Paul Johnson

Treasurer  
Dan Pitkin

Secretary  
Kathie Grazis

Nursery Attendant  
Tina Pitkin

Custodian/Maintenance  
Nick Kupcikevicius



Page 3

**SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**  
**(CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING)**  
**FEBRUARY 6, 2011**

Moderator: Rev. Al Abbott

Clerk: Rebecca Schiltz

Rev. Al Abbott, moderator, opened the meeting prayer at 12: 22pm.

Clerk declared quorum, agenda was adopted. Minutes of the 156th Annual Congregational Meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously. All Committee reports were accepted and approved.

Presented slate of Elders:

Mary Elise Burnett (1 term, class of 2011)

Thomas Pitkin– youth elder (class of 2011)

Shadrack Ndegwa (class of 2013)

Chris Young (class of 2013)

Ron Armstrong (class of 2012)

Present slate of Deacons-all class of 2013:

Kathie Grazis

Liz Bauer

Tina Pitkin

Motion from Clerk to recess annual congregational meeting to go into Worship to ordain and install officers. All of the above to be installed with Ron Armstrong to be ordained as Elder and Kathie Grazis to be ordained as Deacon in the Presbyterian Church. (R. Schiltz, T. Pitkin) unanimous carry.

Meeting recessed for Worship at 1:00pm.

At 1:20pm motion from Clerk to resume annual meeting and continue with docket as written. (R. Schiltz, T. Pitkin) unanimous carry.

2011 Proposed Budget was adopted (J. Chapman, T. Pitkin) unanimous approval.

New Committee Structure for Session and Church was discussed-information only.

Congregation unanimously accepted motion to adjourn and meeting closed in prayer at 1:45pm.

## A LITTLE OF THIS AND A LITTLE OF THAT

### A NOTE FROM YOUR CHURCH SECRETARY

I am sending out a plea to all Committee Moderators and to others who submit things to go into the bulletin, announcements, prayer lists, and Belltower: please, please, please, submit your requests early and make them complete. Also, if you are going to have a Committee Meeting, I need to know that a week ahead of time in order to be able to send out reminder cards to your committee members. These things can be submitted to the office via e-mail or phone or you may leave a written submission in my box in the Conference Room. Please do NOT approach me in a meeting or on Sunday morning and try to give me information as I need my time to worship as do the rest of the congregants, and I no longer have that mind like a steel trap....I admit, I am not aging gracefully and am not happy to admit that either!

Your cooperation will insure that your meeting will be attended because your committee got reminder cards, your announcement/request will make it into the bulletin and/or Belltower, and your secretary will not be found drooling and blithering under her desk when you come looking for her.

Thanks all....

Kathie



Our deepest and heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Bernice Lezotte. She passed away peacefully in Michigan on Sunday morning, Feb. 20th. She was brought back to Kankakee and a graveside service was done by Rev. Herb Thompson, representing our Congregation, on Feb. 23rd at Mound Grove Cemetery. Bernice was 98 years old.

We received the following notice from ***Church Women United of the Kankakee Area***:

Dear Friends:

It is with great sadness that members of Church Women United of the Kankakee Area met in December and voted to disband our chapter. At that meeting we empowered the officers to disburse funds that were committed to National, State, Church World Service and other budgeted items. A full report will be given on April 1st, at which time will disburse the remaining funds with your suggestions.

Please join us for lunch (Dutch treat) at 11 am on April 1st at the Family House in Bradley. It will be good to catch up with one another. We also seek your input on disbursement of the remaining CWU funds to the charities that we will choose that day.

There has been an offer from St. Paul's Episcopal Outreach Committee to continue to host the Shower for Mary. That ingathering will take place on Friday, November 4 at 10 a.m. Please consider working with your local congregation to gather items for the shower and join us for fellowship that day. The Interfaith Sewing Group will be the recipient of the gifts as in the past.

Enclosed is a copy of the Litany of Celebration and Farewell used at the December 2010 meeting and Shower for Mary.

We are grateful for your past support and look forward to continuing the relationships formed through Church Women United in the Kankakee area.

Sincerely,

Church Women United 2010 Officers



## **KIDS & YOUTH**



### **CALLING ALL KIDS!!**

On March 6th, after church, our Youth Group will be having lunch and a movie, which was postponed from an earlier date. Come on out and join in on the fun!

See you at the church on the 6th for a really good time!

The youth delivered 46 bundles of toys on Monday, Feb. 21st, to the preschool classes at the YWCA. Some of the highlights of that excursion were children jumping up and down with joy, and a small boy asking, "I can take this home?" with utter disbelief. It was an awesome experience for our Sunday School children. What a wonderful lesson in giving! Good job kids....

# Worship Volunteers 2010

## Mar.6-Communion Sunday

Liturgist Anne Miller  
 Acolyte Alexis Zunke  
 Ushers Jerry & Trudy Curtis  
 Communion Trudy Curtis  
 Bonnie Bergeron

## Mar.13

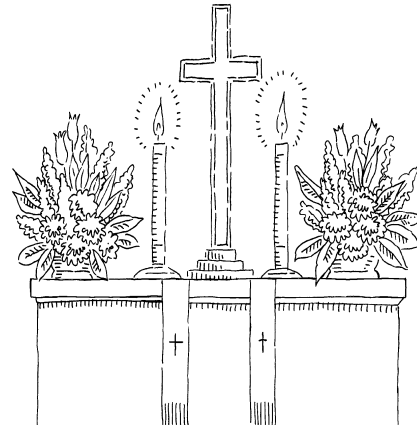
Liturgist Chandler Faber  
 Acolyte Francis Ndegwa  
 Ushers Jeanne Chapman & Kathie Grazis

## Mar. 20

Liturgist Mary Maddox  
 Acolyte Billy Pitkin  
 Ushers Sandy & Bob Sowell

## Mar. 27

Liturgist Chris Young  
 Acolyte Alyssa Zunke  
 Ushers Bernadette & Sophie LaMore



## Worship Schedule

Mar..6– Communion Sunday– Rev. Al Abbott in the pulpit  
*“Guideline for Christians”*

Mar.9—Ash Wednesday  
 Rev. John McLean in the pulpit

Mar.13– Rev. Herb Thompson

Mar.20– Rev. John McLean in the pulpit

Mar.27– Rev. Herb Thompson

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Our Ash Wednesday service will be held Mar. 9th from  
 6:30-7:30pm.

Rev. John McLean will be in the pulpit.

# Congregational News



## *Prayer List*

### Members & Friends

Ruth Brooks (Sue Barclay's mother)

Kay Jones

Mary & Don Maddox

Shirley Maxfield

First Presbyterian Church

### Our shut- Ins

Brooks Kerr

Dorothy Kerr

Jean Parlin

Lorraine Schneider

Arian Tompkins

Jack Walters

Nyla Wepprecht

Linda Wertz

Charlotte Carney



Session voted to eliminate the job of *Comptroller*, in an effort to cut expenses in our Church. The Treasurer will combine those duties with his own. We want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Jim Faford for his years of service to us here and for all his hard work. His never failing sense of humor and good will , will be greatly missed in the office. Thanks Jim for all the friendship and all your hard work. We wish him well.

### **AN UPDATE.....**

Shirley Maxfield is once again back at Miller Center, E-110 and is making some progress but remains very frail. She has very little strength and cannot talk for any length of time or above a whisper. Keep her in your continued prayers. The Secretary is trying to get a weekly update on her journey and will keep the congregation abreast of her condition. Cards and short visits are welcomed.

### **STAINED GLASS JESUS IS BACK IN THE HOUSE!!**

Take note ,when you come into church , that our Stained Glass “window” is back in residence. It was damaged and repaired. The cost of the repair was picked up by a member of the John 3:16 Church. It’s good to have it back with us as it was greatly missed!

## MUSIC NOTES

PAUL JOHNSON

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY



Spring is almost here. Aren't you glad? Driving from Joliet when it's icy or lots of snow is no picnic, so while winter has its good points, I won't miss it!

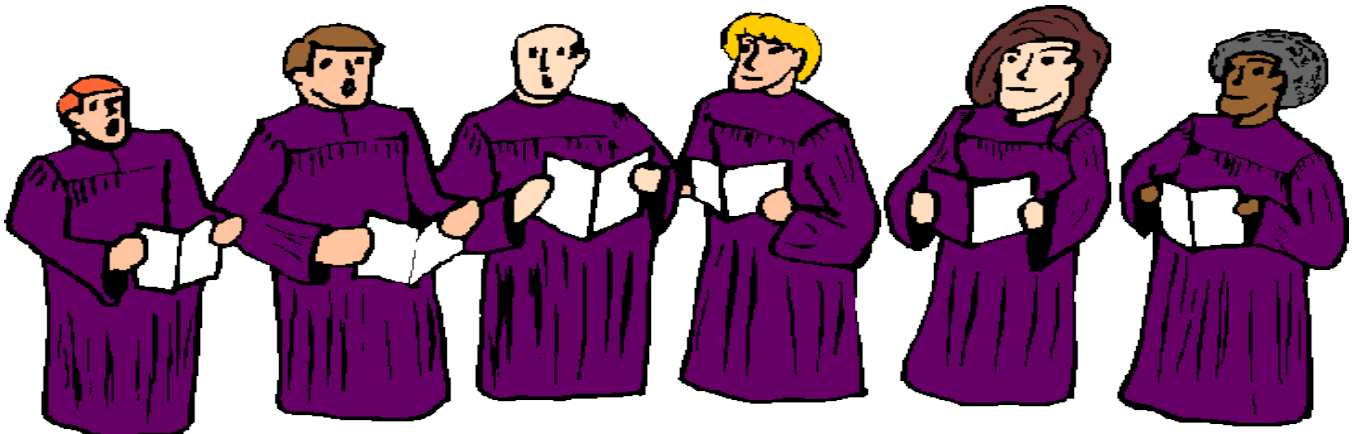
Musically speaking, Spring brings to mind renewal, growth, rebirth and the like. In the church, the seasons of Lent and Easter draw remarkable parallels to what is happening in nature.

In a way, our church is going through a process not unlike what is happening in nature. We need to find out who we are and what we are about, i.e.: our "mission statement". As you go through this process I hope that week to week, the musical offerings presented by myself and others, will help you as God continues to guide this congregation.

Speaking of "others", it has been suggested that we might try to get a hand bell choir going again; if not weekly, twice a month. This could happen, but we need at least six people who would commit to it. Would you be one of those people? Also, I am open to trying to do something musically with the children, and if enough parents commit to bringing their kids to rehearse on a regular basis, something could happen there.

These are just some of the things I'm working on. Let's continue to work together and see what exciting things God has in store for the First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee!

-Paul



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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)

*Class of 2013*

Shadrack Ndegwa  
Chris Young

Vacant

**Deacons**

*Class of 2011*

Bernadette LaMore  
Gina Zunke

*Class of 2012*

Kathie Grazis  
Anne Muchemi

*Class of 2013*

Elizabeth Bauer  
Tina Pitkin