



THE BELLTOWER

THE MAP PROCESS BEGINS THIS MONTH!

First Presbyterian Church will begin the **MAP** process on **Monday, May 9th**. The **MAP** process is where we, as a congregation, determine where we want to head in terms of a pastor. We will meet at **6:00pm** and for the first meeting we will have a light supper. A sign-up sheet for side dishes and desserts is in the Narthex. We will then be meeting every other Monday for 5-6 weeks. This is open to the entire congregation and we need as many participants as possible. Jan Chandler, from Gardner, will be leading us through this process with the assistance of Rev. Al Abbott. We need to **ALL** participate in this process as it is essential that all of us be a part of the search for a new pastor. Want a say in who we hire to lead us? Then turn out for this important series of meetings.

May 2011

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CHURCH GROUNDS WORK DAY!!

A Spring work day will be held at the church on Saturday, May 21, 2011.

Clean-up will be done inside the church as well as completing yard and grounds work.

The John 3:16 Church of God Church will be invited to also take part. Come out and help beautify our Church!

PRESBYTERIAN PEARLS FROM THE PAST

The Session of the church was organized through the election of Jephtha Ripley and Augustine Chester as Elders. As the case with several Kankakee churches, the first services were held in the freight house of the Illinois Central Railroad.

Staff

Guest Pastors
In the Pulpit

Director
Of Music Ministry
Paul Johnson

Treasurer
Dan Pitkin

Secretary
Kathie Grazis

Nursery Attendant
Tina Pitkin

Custodian
Nick Kupcikevicius

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

May 01, 2011

Moderator: Rev. Al Abbott

Clerk: Mary Elise Burnett

Present: Rev. Al Abbott-Moderator, Mary Elise Burnett-Clerk of Session, , Jeanne Chapman, Bonnie Bergeron, Thomas Pitkin, Shadrack Ndegwa, Chris Young, Judy Markham, and Dan Pitkin and Ron Armstrong

Meeting opened with prayer at 11:57 am.

Period of Study: Discussion RE: restructuring the committees. Review of makeup of each committee.

Discussion concerning different types of pastoral arrangements and initiation of MAP process.

Jeanne raises question of need of a day-to-day leader. Rev. Abbott advised that he is the moderator of the church so questions should be referred to him. J. Markham moves that Rev. Abbott's contact info be made available to all Elders. Seconded by J. Chapman. Passes unanimously. Rev. Abbott stated he would prefer to be contacted by e-mail.

REPORTS:

DEACON'S REPORT: Mary Elise Burnett reports that Kathie Grazis submitted her resignation. T. Pitkin moves and Dan Pitkin seconds to accept the resignation. Nominating Committee to work on replacement. Passes unanimously.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Abbott reported that he has met with John McLean and that it was a very positive meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dan reports that electric usage and janitorial supplies have doubled since last year. The report approved by finance will need to be submitted for approval for next meeting. J. Markham moves and S. Ndegwa seconded to submit this month's income and expense report next month. Passes unanimously. As to the balance sheet, Dan reminded Session that funds from the Hemstreet bequest will be removed for lighting which has already been approved.

PERSONNEL: Jeanne advised that the Personnel Committee procedure has been amended. Discussion held about procedures for issues which involve a relative of a committee member. Jeanne is to submit the modifications next month. Question raised about doing evaluations for unpaid staff. Discussion was held about evaluation of Treasurer's position. Session was reminded that the Treasurer reports to Session. Motion passed unanimously. The committee will proceed with finishing the evaluations.

MISSION: Shadrack advises that he is working on developing some programs/issues which will not only be and outreach for the community but get the members of the congregation involved.

WORSHIP: Jeanne advised that we are declining the invitation by the Episcopal Church for the April 13th meeting. Discussion was had about updating the website. RE: payment for Dr. Garton for emergency calls to be treated as housing allowance. Dan will check with Deborah Heid and report next month.

RE: Request for Dr. Garton to lead Sunday School after Lenten Services. Referred to Christian Ed committee including checking with Rev. Krogh as to whether this is permissible.

Jeanne advises that Dr. Garton submitted a letter to be included in the Belltower. Question was raised whether this is permissible. Chris will ask Krogh about this also.

J. Markham moved and T. Pitkin seconds to approve the report. Passes unanimously.

FINANCE: Judy reports that Dan has advised he is not going to accept payment for acting as Treasurer. Discussion held whether this should be a paid position. J. Markham moves and T. Pitkin seconds to accept report. Passes unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: Status of John 3:16 relationship. Committee has not yet met with John 3:16. Discussion held about continued problems. Rev. Abbott asks what the repercussions are if we terminate relationship. Each expresses his or her opinion. Concerns about increased costs because of increased usage, care of building and timely payments. Judy, Jeanne and Shadrack will meet with pastor Luis and his representatives, if any, and explain that we will need to go back to the original plan, pay more money or terminate the relationship.

NEW BUSINESS: Request by Bernadette LaMore for permission to hold. In her personal capacity, a bake sale in May the proceeds of which will be donated to the Cancer Walk on behalf of Paul Becker. J. Chapman moves and C. Young seconds that the such permission be granted. Passes unanimously.

Judy makes request for the baptism of her grandson, Evan Kosyla, but is not sure of the date yet. J. Chapman moves and C. Young seconds that the request be approved pending the date. Passes unanimously.

Next stated meeting: May 1, 2011.

T. Pitkin moves and D. Pitkin seconds to adjourn. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting closes with prayer at 2:30pm.



A LITTLE OF THIS AND A LITTLE OF THAT

SOMETHING TO PONDER AND INSPIRE....

There once was a man named George Thomas, a pastor in a small New England town. One Sunday morning after Easter he came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and he set it by the pulpit. Eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak.

"I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked, "What do you have there son?" "Just some old birds," came the reply. "What are you going to do with them?", I asked. "Take 'em home and fun with 'em". He answered. "I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time." "But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?" "Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy. "They like birds. I'll take 'em to them." The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds son?" "HUHHHH? Why, you don't want them birds mister. They are just plain old field birds, they don't sing. They aren't beautiful." "How much?" the pastor repeated. The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said "\$10.?" The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten dollar bill and placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down he opened the door and by gently tapping the bars he persuaded the birds to come out, setting them free. Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit. And then, the pastor began to tell this story:

One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting. "Yes sir, I just caught a world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait, I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!" "What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked. Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm going to teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to break their parent's hearts, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm going to teach them how to tear each other apart with their words. I'm really gonna have fun!" "And what will you do when you are done with them?" Jesus asked. "Oh, I'm gonna kill 'em" Satan glared proudly. "How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked. "Oh you don't want those people, they ain't any good. Why, they will hate you, refuse to do what you want them to do, they will curse you and kill you. You don't want those people." "How much?" Jesus asked again. Satan looked at Jesus and answered, "All your blood and tears and your life." Jesus said, "DONE!" then he paid the price.

...The pastor picked up the cage and walked from the pulpit.

This "Bible Tag" comes to us via Jeanne Chapman. Thanks Jeanne for sharing it!

May all God's Blessings and Hopes reach you!

God made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Joseph ruled
Jacob fooled
Bush talked
Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued
People walked
Sea divided
Tables guided
Promises landed
Saul freaked
David peeked
Prophets warned
Jesus born
God walked
Love talked
Anger crucified
Hope died
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained

The LOVE OF GOD!

Prayers go up, Blessings come down

May you find peace within you, may you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

Have a wonderful day: "This is the day which the Lord hath made, we rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalm 118:24



KIDS & YOUTH



LAST YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITY OF THE YEAR!

MAY 1, 2011 AFTER CHURCH

A CHURCH PICNIC, HAYRIDE, HORSEBACK RIDING
AND A LOT OF GOOD FUN AND FELLOWSHIP WILL BE
HELD OUT AT THE PITKINS HOME IN BONFIELD.

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS.

BAKE SALE & AUCTION!

MAY 22, 2011

THE YOUTH NEED DONATIONS OF BAKED GOODS TO AUCTION OFF TO
BENEFIT PAUL BECKER'S EFFORTS IN THE *WALK FOR BREAST CANCER*. IF
YOU CAN BAKE SOMETHING FOR THIS EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT TINA OR
BERNADETTE.

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed for this year's VBS program. Leaders to help with Bible stories, crafts, music, and food are needed. The theme for this year will be ***CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD***.

The kids will be learning about a different group of people or country each day. Right now VBS is expected to run the second or third week of July, from 3-5:30pm, ending with a dinner and program for the family at 5:30pm on the final day. The first meeting to finalize plans for VBS will be held May 15, 2011, after church.

Cultural artifacts from Germany, Mexico, Africa, Greece and from Native Americans, for display and have discussion about with the kids, would be appreciated.

Call the office if you would like to participate in any way.

Worship Volunteers 2010

May 1-Communion Sunday

Liturgist Trudy Curtis
 Acolyte Alexis Zunke
 Ushers Richard Logan, Ron Armstrong
 Communion Shadrack Ndegwa
 Chris Young

May 8

Liturgist Anne Miller
 Acolyte Sophia LaMore
 Ushers Jerry & Trudy Curtis

May 15

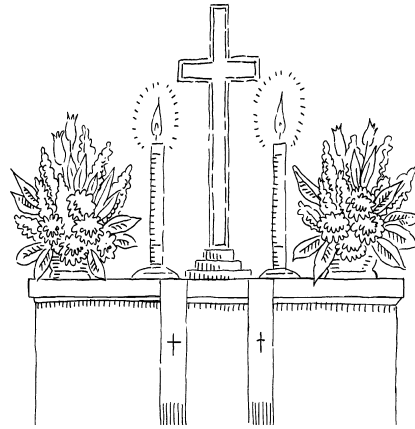
Liturgist Jeanne Chapman
 Acolyte Alyssa Zunke
 Ushers Bernadette & Sophia LaMore

May 22

Liturgist Mary Maddox
 Acolyte Francis Ndegwa
 Ushers Jeanne Chapman & Kathie Grazis

May 29

Liturgist Kathie Grazis
 Acolyte Billy Pitkin
 Ushers Bob & Sandy Sowell



Worship Schedule

May 1 – Communion Sunday– Rev. Al Abbott in the pulpit

May 8— Rev. Franklin Garton in the pulpit
“Peter Gives A Call to Holy Living”
 1 Peter 1: 13-21

May 15—Rev. Franklin Garton in the pulpit
“Get A Grip-Life’s Not Easy”
 1 Peter 2: 19-15

May 22—Rev. Franklin Garton in the pulpit
“Precious Living Stone”
 1 Peter 2: 2-10

May 29– Rev. Franklin Garton in the pulpit
“The benefits of a Tender Heart and Humble Mind”
 1 Peter 8-22



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

Congregational News

PRAYER CONCERNS

Brooks & Dorothy Kerr (Butterfield Court), **Jean Parlin** (Heritage Village), **Lorraine Schneider** (Butterfield Court), **Jack Walters** (Bickford House), **Nyla Wepprecht** (Bridges at Butterfield), **Linda Wertz** (at home), **Charlotte Carney** (Manor Care), **Elizabeth Bauer** (Health Concerns), **Bonnie Bergeron (Recuping from back surgery)** , **Ruth Brooks** (Sue Barclay's mother), **Terry Chapman (Jeanne's brother, serious health concerns)**, **Kay Jones** (Cancer issues), **Mary & Don Maddox**, **Lara Plecas** (Jeanne's daughter, Mother-To-Be), **First Presbyterian Church**, **All of those affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan**, **our country as we make decisions concerning our involvement in the Libyan conflict**, **all our Military personnel who continue to serve in Afghanistan and Iraq**, **all of our elderly in our country who continue to struggle with day-to-day life in this economy.**



MUSIC NOTES

PAUL JOHNSON

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY



Greetings!

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

What a glorious Easter Service, with over 70 people in attendance! Many comments were received about enjoying the music that day. Thank you for that. Also people liked seeing the children sing.

Most of you missed the Good Friday service. You missed an excellent service. Those in attendance were moved by the readings and music.

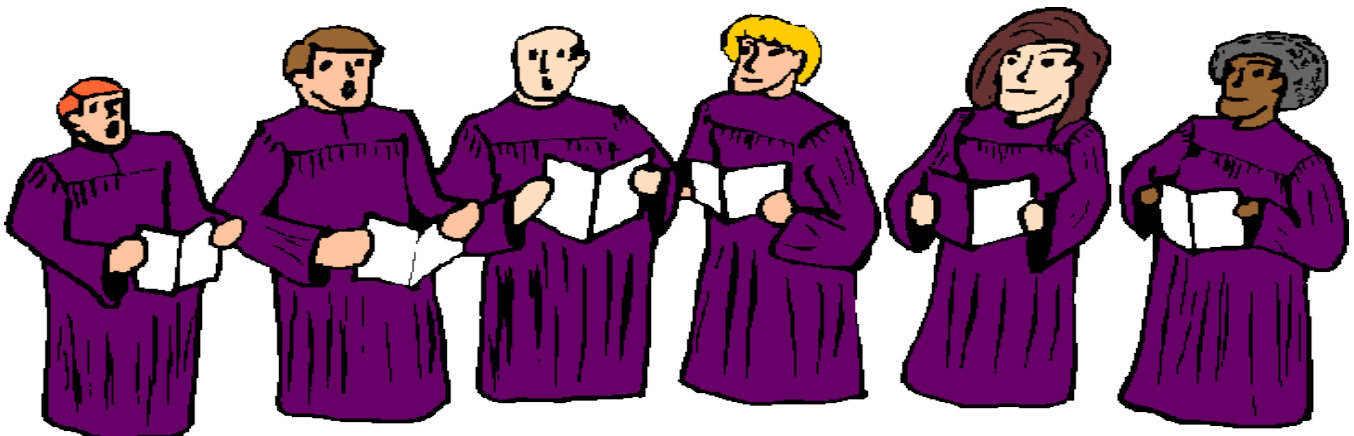
As we move forward, look for more special music to be included in the services. We are trying to find a time that works with most parents to have their children here to practice either singing or ringing bells. The time we're considering is 9:40am each Sunday, and having the children participate in worship once a month. There will also be vocal and instrumental numbers.

By the time most of you read this I will be up in Door County on vacation. Dr. Tim Nelson will be playing the organ May 1st. I'll be back for the rest of May and beyond.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be your Director of Music Ministries. May God guide the Church as together we move forward.

Blessings,

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