



November 2010

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First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee

THE BELLTOWER

BAKE SALE & CAKE AUCTION!

November 7, 2010

Bring that sweet tooth and your wallet and come to the Bake Sale & Auction and Children's Cake Walk to benefit the Youth of our congregation! It promises to be as successful as the last one we had. Come and have some fun and support the youth of our church. Donations of baked goods are also needed. See Tina Pitkin or Bernadette LaMore to offer your assistance with a baked good item.



"Presbyterian Pearls"

What do Shapiro Hospital, Arcade Building (Clock Tower Center), the first St. Mary's Hospital, Riverview Hotel, and First Presbyterian Church have in common? They were all built by, Master Builder, James Lillie (1835-1908). Lillie, born in Scotland, immigrated to the United States at 17. An avowed abolitionist, he fought along side John Brown in Kansas, but was not part of the ill-fated raid on Harper's Ferry. He manufactured bricks during the Civil War and moved to Kankakee in 1878 after winning the \$1.5 million contract to build the Illinois Eastern Hospital for the Insane (Shapiro Hospital). Lillie and his wife, Julia Fink, were parents of 12 children. He was known to be extremely generous and was often referred to as "the senator". The little steamboat *Minnie Lillie* that plied the Kankakee River in the 1870's was named after one of Lillie's daughters. The Lillie home stood on the corner of South Harrison and River Street where the B'nai Israel Jewish Temple is now located.

Staff

Director
Of Music Ministry
Paul Johnson

Treasurer
Dan Pitkin

Secretary
Kathie Grazis

Nursery Attendant
Tina Pitkin

Comptroller
Jim Faford

Custodian/Maintenance
Nick Kupcikevicius

NOTHING ELSE RUINS THE TRUTH LIKE STRETCHING IT!

A Letter From Your Clerk of Session.....

Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee,

For those of you unable to attend the October 10, 2010 Congregational meeting, the congregation voted to dissolve our relationship with Rev. Deborah Slack-Harris. It was after much consideration and support from our Committee on Ministry that your session presented this to the congregation. Please keep our church and Rev. Debbie in your prayers. Here is something to think about as we move into the future....

It is officially fall. Fall is a season of change; summer heat fades, leaves change color and fall to the ground, days become shorter, and kids are back in school. Fall is happening as well at First Presbyterian Church in Kankakee. Our church is in a state of "fall", a change that has been set in motion by the session and congregation to improve our congregational spiritual health.

If you look up the definition of fall, on first glance it is not necessarily a positive word. According to Webster's Dictionary, fall as a verb means many things:

- "to drop or descend under the force of gravity, as to a lower place through loss or lack of support."
- "fall back to. To retreat".
- "to surrender, or capture, as of a city"
- "to pass into some physical, mental, or emotional condition."

If you spend a little more time reading and analyzing the above definitions, it is clear that First Presbyterian Church is in a state of "fall" and it is good and God's will.

- Gravity: In all of this change we are experiencing, the constant is God. Like gravity, God is always present and there to catch or carry us when we fall. We have fallen and God has caught us.
- "To fall back, to retreat": We have taken a step back, a moment of pause, to analyze the future of our church and what is best for our spiritual health. This step back, or retreat, was much needed and positive, though the future is unknown.
- "Surrender": We have surrendered our minds and paths to God's will and "captured" our church to resume positive ministry.
- And finally, "passing into some physical, mental, or emotional condition" can be the most positive fall of all: falling in love.

See, fall is amongst us and it is positive and good. We do not always understand change, but it too is a constant and we must forge ahead together, united in God's will and with God's trust that we will fall into the best path of ministry for First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee. We must keep praying and keep supporting each other as we, with God's love and support, write our future.

Respectfully, your Clerk of Session ,

SESSION MINUTES

September 29, 2010

**First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee, Kankakee, Illinois
Called Meeting of Session**

Held at the First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee

September 29, 2010

Moderator: Rev. Lucia Oerter

Clerk: Rebecca Schiltz

Elders present:

Dan Pitkin Jeanne Chapman Bonnie Bergeron

Judy Markham Mary Elise Burnett Trudy Curtis

Youth Elder: Thomas Pitkin

Committee on Ministry: Elder Elmer Geissler, Rev. Terry Hennesy, Elder Valerie Curry

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm with prayer by Rev. Lucia Oerter

Rev. Terry Hennesy brought session up to speed with recent occurrences in our situation.

Purpose of meeting is to discuss with Committee on Ministry (COM) dissolution of the relationship between the Congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee and Rev. Deborah Slack-Harris .

Motion to Dissolve the relationship between the Congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee and Rev. Slack-Harris. (Schiltz, Burnett)

The terms are as follows:

- Rev. Deborah Slack-Harris will be asked to leave her position effective September 30, 2010.
- A Salary Continuation Package will be paid to Rev. Deborah commencing on Oct. 1, 2010 and ending 26 weeks later on March 31, 2011.
- Salary Continuation Package will consist of:

Salary:	\$14,322.15
Housing	\$7,956.75
Pension/Major Medical:	\$6,140.50
SS Offset:	\$852.25 payable December 31, 2010 \$852.25 payable April 1, 2011
Total:	\$30,123.90
- Loan to Pastor with outstanding balance of \$1,307 as of Oct. 1, 2010 will be garnished from severance in an amount of \$108.92 per paycheck. Last payment to be on last paycheck of March 31, 2011.
- Salary Continuation Package will cease upon Rev. Deborah securing full time call and/or pro-rated based on a part-time call that she accepts within the 6 month time frame of this motion, Upon this event, outstanding balance of personal loan will be paid in full on last paycheck.
- Rev. Deborah will return all church property including her laptop. Laptop accessories, and keys. Likewise, she will remove any of her personal property from the premises. Lack of cooperation may alter the terms of the salary continuation package.

SESSION MINUTES CONT.

- It is the expectation of both parties to refrain from any derogatory or malicious comments or actions. All forms of communication will cease between all parties (congregation, session, and staff) other than working with Becky and Judy for removal of personal property from the church. Lack of cooperation may alter the terms of the Salary Continuation Package.
- Approval of congregation , meeting on October 10, 2010 ,for vote on dissolution.

Vote: Unanimous passage.

Motion for restarting Worship Committee with Jeanne Chapman and Dan Pitkin as interim co-chairs. Worship Committee will be responsible for ensuring completion of bulletin, acquiring pulpit supply and search for temporary emergent pastoral care. (Pitkin, Curtis)

Motion for upholding congregational meeting on Oct. 24th with Rev. Al Abbott as moderator of congregational meeting and subsequent session meeting immediately following. Re. Al Abbott will be asked to preach that day as well. (Schiltz, T. Pitkin) Unanimous passage.

Confirmation received for Rev. Al Abbott to moderate the called congregational meeting for Oct. 10th at 12pm or earlier. He will also preach on Oct. 24th, and moderate both the called Congregational Meeting and the Stated Session meeting.

Motion from Clerk of Session to send a letter to the congregation informing them of the called Congregational Meeting on Oct. 10th for the purpose of dissolving the relationship between Rev. Deborah Slack-Harris and First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee, requesting congregation to make every effort to attend. (Schiltz, T. Pitkin) Unanimous carry.

Motion to adjourn (D. Pitkin, Bergeron) Unanimous carry.

Meeting adjourned in prayer at 9:24pm.

The Salvation Army needs our help! Their shelves are BARE! Any non-perishable food item you can donate will be very much appreciated as we head into the fall and winter season. Let's give generously as we have in the past to help this local food pantry help our local people in their time of need. The wagon is filling up nicely! Thank you for your generous hearts!



NOVEMBER 5, 2010
10:00AM
WORLD COMMUNITY DAY CELEBRATION
“BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY”
POTLUCK LUNCHEON
CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED
ST.PAUL’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
296 S. HARRISON ST.
KANKAKEE, IL



There were five houses of worship in a small town: The Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church, the Catholic Church and the Jewish Synagogue. Each church and Synagogue was overrun with pesky squirrels.

One day, The Presbyterian Church called a Session Meeting to decide what to do about the squirrels. After much prayer and consideration they determined that the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

In the Baptist Church the squirrels had taken up habitation in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a cover on the baptistery

and drown the squirrels in it. The squirrels escaped and there were twice as many there the next week.

The Methodist Church got together and decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creation. So, they humanely trapped the squirrels and set them free a few miles outside of town. Three days later, the squirrels were back.

The Catholic Church came up with the best and most effective solution. They baptized the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and Easter.

Not much was heard about The Jewish Synagogue, but they took one squirrel and had a short service with him, called circumcision and they haven't seen a squirrel on the property since.





KIDS & YOUTH



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

To all those who came out and took part in the Fall Gathering at The Pitkin's place on Oct. 24th, a big thank you for helping to kick off this year's Youth Group, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support. Thanks especially to The Pitkin family for the use of their home and to Dan & Tina and Bernadette for putting it together so all could enjoy the day. We're off to a good start!

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

Youth Group will be meeting once a month with Tina Pitkin and Bernadette LaMore leading the group. Dates for the meeting times will most likely vary month to month, so announcements will be in your bulletins, as well as notices for events.

If the Fall Gathering was any indication, it will be a great year for youth!

Watch the bulletin for coming announcements.



WE STILL NEED DONATIONS OF BAKED GOODS FOR THE NOV. 7TH BAKED GOODS AUCTION AND CAKE WALK! HELP MAKE THIS YEAR'S FUNDRAISER FOR OUR YOUTH GROUP A HUGE SUCCESS AS IT WAS LAST YEAR! GET BAKING, IT'S NOT TOO LATE! TELL TINA OR BERNADETTE WHAT YOU ARE BRINGING

The Youth Group will be spearheading the Shoe Box Ministry this year. They would like all donations to the church soon so they can put the boxes put together and get them sent out. Let's support the youth in this great ministry. Bring in your donations!

Worship Volunteers 2010

Nov. 7–Communion Sunday

Liturgist- Trudy Curtis
 Acolyte Alexis Zunke
 Ushers Bernadette LaMore
 Sophie LaMore
 Elizabeth Bauer

Communion Mary Elise Burnett
 Will Patterson

Nov. 14

Liturgist Anne Miller
 Acolyte Garrett Becker
 Ushers Ralph Klein
 Ron Armstrong
 Judy Markham

Nov. 21

Liturgist Mary Maddox
 Acolyte Alyssa Zunke
 Ushers Jessie Planthaber
 Garrett Becker
 Paul Becker

Nov. 28

Liturgist Robert Sowell
 Acolyte Francis Ndegwa
 Ushers Sandy Sowell
 Ron Redenius
 M. Redenius

Dec.5-Communion Sunday

Liturgist Chris Young
 Acolyte Sophia LaMore
 Ushers Elizabeth Bauer,
 Jeanne Chapman
 Richard Logan

Communion Judy Markham
 Robert Sowell

Dec. 12-

Liturgist Thomas Pitkin
 Acolyte Garrett Becker
 Ushers Doug Barclay
 Sue Barclay
 Chandler Faber

Dec.19

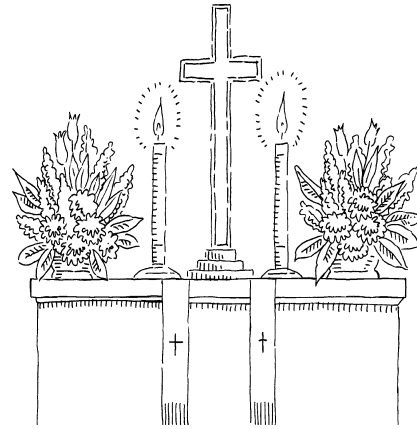
Liturgist Bonnie Bergeron
 Acolyte Kobe Sands
 Ushers Jerry Curtis
 Trudy Curtis
 Ron Armstrong

Dec.24-Christmas Eve

Liturgist Chandler Faber
 Acolyte Francis Ndegwa
 Ushers Jessie Planthaber
 Garrett Becker
 Ralph Klein

Dec. 26

Liturgist Gina Zunke
 Acolyte Alexis Zunke
 Ushers Richard Logan
 Jeanne Chapman
 Elizabeth Bauer



Worship Schedule

Nov.7-Communion Sunday
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
"He Is God of the Living"
 Luke 20:27-38

Nov. 14-33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
"Opportunity, Words, and Wisdom-Great Gifts"
 Luke 21: 5-19

Nov. 21– 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time
"Life's Big Ifs Are Settled At His Place"
 Luke 23: 33-43

Nov. 28– 35th Sunday in Ordinary Time
"Pay Attention!"
 Matthew 24: 36-44

Congregational News



Prayer List

Members & Friends

- Ruth Brooks (Sue Barclay's mother)
- Terry Chapman (Jeanne's brother)
- First Presbyterian Church
- Craig Frooninckx (Chloe's son)
- Kay Jones
- Gwen Kosyla (Mother-to-be)
- Mary Maddox
- Shirley Maxfield
- John Sowell (Bob's brother)
- Sandy Sowell
- Robert Sowell
- Krystal Stillwell (mother-to-be, Jeanne's neice)
- Judy Patterson (Will's Stepmom)
- Tina Pitkin
- Mary Rittmanic (Kathy Patterson's mom)

Our shut-ins

- Charlotte Carney
- Bernice Lezotte
- Brooks Kerr
- Dorothy Kerr
- Jean Parlin
- Lorraine Schneider
- Arian Tompkins
- Jack Walters
- Nyla Wepprecht
- Linda Wertz



PER CAPITA OFFERING– So far we have collected \$798.17 from your special offerings of our total \$1500. that we need to send to Presbytery.

Special Offerings– One Great Hour of Sharing: \$615.61

Pentecost Offering- : \$263. 56

Special Note!

Thank you to all who came out on the outside work day held here at the church on Oct. 2. It was a huge success and the church grounds look wonderful! Thanks also to those who "housecleaned" inside, especially the kitchen area. It looks great!



MR. PRESBY UPDATE

Our Mr. Presby, our resident Groundhog, is now hibernating. Having stuffed himself full of treats that you all generously brought, he bids you all goodnight until Spring....and then....WILL HE SEE HIS OWN SHADOW???

MUSIC NOTES

PAUL JOHNSON

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY



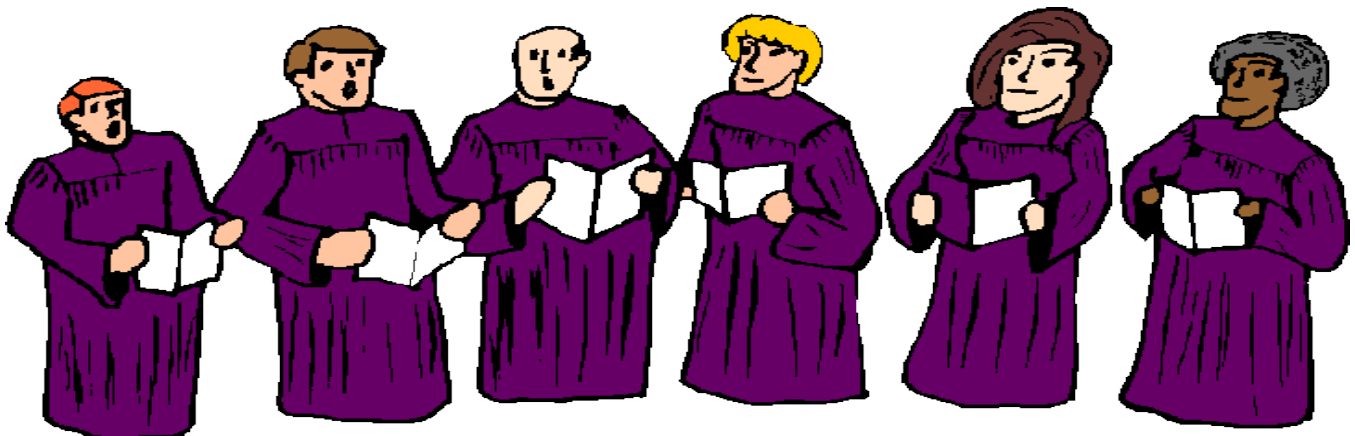
During this time of transition, as the church goes through the process of calling a new pastor, I've been told that the music ministry will be an important part of the process. The power of music, to minister to the human soul, is undeniable. But when music is used in Worship, the Holy Spirit can speak to us in far deeper ways. This concept is always in my mind as I work to choose music for Worship.

It would seem that most of you who can or are able to sing with the choir are already doing so. I appreciate each and every person, whether they sing regularly or sing when they can.

In order to add more to worship, however, it would be nice to have vocalists and instrumentalists be a part of Worship as well. Therefore, if you play an instrument, or can sing, please contact me. Together we will get through these difficult times as long as we "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God..."

In Christ,

Paul Johnson



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Fax: 815/939-3547
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www.firstpreskankee.org*

**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