

First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee



THE BELLTOWER



Labor Day



September 2011

Inside This Issue:

ENJOY YOUR LABOR DAY WEEKEND.

HAVE A SAFE AND RESTFUL HOLIDAY!

<i>Session Minutes</i>	2-3
<i>This & That</i>	4
<i>Kids Page & Youth</i>	5
<i>Worship Schedule & Financials</i>	6
<i>Congregational News</i>	7
<i>Music Notes</i>	8
<i>September Calendar (insert)</i>	

****NOTICE OF FALL YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF EVENT****

There will be a Youth Group Picnic hosted by the Pitkins at their place in Bonfield on September 18, 2011 starting at 4:00pm.

The entire congregation is invited to the picnic , which will also include horse-back riding and a hayride. The John 3:16 church and youth are also invited.

Bring a dish to pass and come join in the fun!

ATTENTION ELDERS WHO SERVE COMMUNION

Please remember that if it is your Sunday to serve Communion, you must be responsible for juice and bread. Come to church early enough to prepare both elements and to put proper drape on Communion table and then after Worship, you must remember to clear the Communion table and dispose of remaining elements and replace trays in the proper place under the Communion table.

Plastic, disposable Communion cups can also be found under the Communion table where trays are stored.

PRESBYTERIAN PEARLS FROM THE PAST

In 1871 a manse/parsonage was built at 311 N. Indiana Ave. As a memorial offering for the 100th year of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. at the cost of \$2,300. 00

Staff

Guest Pastors
In the Pulpit

Director
Of Music Ministry
Paul Johnson

Treasurer
Dan Pitkin

Secretary
Kathie Grazis

Nursery Attendant
Tina Pitkin

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Page 2

August 07, 2011

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

Moderator: Rev. Alvin Abbott

Clerk: Mary Elise Burnett

Present: Rev. Alvin Abbott-Moderator, Mary Elise Burnett-Clerk of Session, Thomas Pitkin, Judy Markham, Dan Pitkin and Chris Young.

Absent: Bonnie Bergeron and Ron Armstrong.

Meeting opened with prayer at 11:55am.

D. Pitkin moved and J. Markham seconded to approve the minutes of July 3, 2011 meeting. Passed unanimously.

J. Markham moved and Dan Pitkin seconded to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2011 meeting. Passed unanimously.

Deborah Heid presented the annual audit for the year ending December 31, 2010. She praised Dan Pitkin for his good work. She advised that she saw nothing which required any suggestions for improving the materials.

REPORTS:

Pastor's Report: Question concerning time off for Kathie. Kathie is to report to Rev. Abbott. Mary Elise Burnett moved and J. Markham seconded to approve this arrangement. Passed unanimously.

Clerk's Report: Baptism of Evan Zachary Kosyla on July 18, 2011.

Treasurer's Report/Stewardship and Finance Committee Report:

D. Pitkin moved and J. Markham seconded to approve June financials. Passed unanimously.

Dan is going to close the PNC account.

J. Markham moved to accept minutes of the finance committee including withdrawal of \$20,000 from the Z funds.

Rev. Abbott called John Rickard from Presbytery concerning the \$5,000 bill from Board of Pensions for Deborah Harris continuing to withdraw from the Board of Pensions. Discussion held. J. Markham moved and C. Young seconded to refuse to pay the \$5,000. bill. Passed unanimously.

Building & Grounds: Status of electrical work. Discussion held. Girard Electric will be notified to begin work.

We did fire inspection. Items on the list have been taken care of.

RE: The alarm list– Pastor Luis agreed to be added to the list. Building and Grounds will also check with Doug Barclay.

Locks have been changed and keys issued.

Cleaning issue discussed. Building and Grounds directed to engage in conversation with John 3:16 about the cleaning issue.

Christian Education: Chris reported that Vacation Bible School was held the last week of July. 15 children from John 3:16 participated and 4 from our church. An international theme was used. The final event was a program. John 3:16 provided a dinner after the program. Chris advised that it went very well and was well received.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resignation letter received from Jeanne Chapman. J. Markham moved and C. Young seconded to accept. Passed unanimously.

Development of personnel policy concerning prohibition of employment of family members referred to personnel committee.

Request by John 3:16 to use church 8/20 for a wedding. They will be responsible for set up and clean up. D. Pitkin moved and C. Young seconded to approve. Passed unanimously.

Discussion held concerning getting a schedule for opening church. Building and Grounds to develop.

Discussion held concerning qualities we are looking for in new pastor.

Discussion re: 2012 per capita. Tabled until next meeting.

Discussion about ordering copies of the new Book of Order. J. Markham moved and D. Pitkin seconded to order six (6) copies. Passed unanimously.

Discussion held concerning potential restrictions on real estate where church building is located. Future discussion to be held.

T. Pitkin moved and D. Pitkin seconded to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Meeting closed with prayer and adjourned at 1:55pm.

Next stated meeting will be September 4, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Elise Burnett

THIS AND THAT

YOU MIGHT BE IN A COUNTRY CHURCH IF...

1. The doors are never locked.
2. The *Call To Worship* is "Y'all come on in!"
3. People grumble about Noah letting coyotes on the ark.
4. The Preacher says "I'd like to ask Bubba to help take up the offering"—and 5 guys stand up.
5. The restroom is outside.
6. Opening day of deer hunting season is recognized as an official church holiday.
7. A member requests to be buried in his 4-wheel drive truck because "I ain't never been in a hole it couldn't get me out of!"
8. In the annual stewardship drive there is at least one pledge of "2 calves".
9. Never in its entire 100-year history has one of its pastors had to buy any meat or vegetables.
10. When it rains, everybody's smiling.

STATISTICS...

If a church's average morning attendance is 100, how many will attend a Sunday evening service?

(answer: about 10)

If a church's average morning attendance is 2,500, how many will attend a Sunday evening service?

(Answer: A Sunday evening what?)

Pastor Price has been at First Church for three years, and attendance has been growing at a rate of 11.3% annually, volunteerism is up, the budget is balanced and the bathroom painted. What percentage salary increase can Pastor Price expect? (Answer: He will be fired for painting the bathrooms without calling a Congregational meeting.)

When listening to a colleague preach, what percentage of pastors are convinced they could do a better job? (Answer: 63%. The rest aren't listening at all.)

What percentage of a pastor's time is spent in each of the following areas?

- A. Prayer (Answer 3%)
- B. Study & Preparation (Answer 8%)
- C. Member care and counseling (Answer 5%)
- D. Leadership & Administration (Answer 2%)
- E. Little things pastors were not trained for, rarely understand, & are not in any job description (Answer 81%)



KIDS & YOUTH



**WATCH FOR COMING NEWS ABOUT
FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

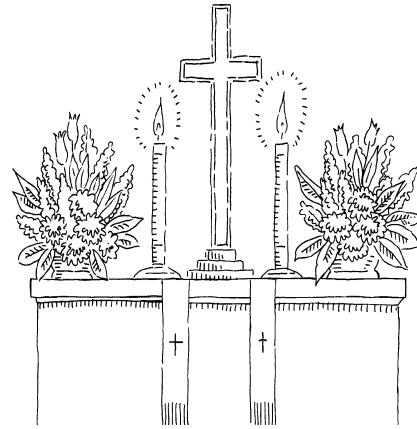
Worship Volunteers 2011

Sept. 4- Communion Sunday
 Liturgist Mary Maddox
 Acolyte Alexis Zunke
 Ushers Jerry & Trudy Curtis
 Communion Trudy Curtis, Judy Markham

Sept. 11
 Liturgist Bonnie Bergeron
 Acolyte Francis Muchemi
 Ushers Richard Logan, Kathie Grazis

Sept. 18
 Liturgist Chris Young
 Acolyte Billy Pitkin
 Ushers Sandy & Bob Sowell

Sept. 25
 Liturgist Kathie Grazis
 Acolyte Alyssa Zunke
 Ushers Doug & Sue Barclay



Worship Schedule

Sept. 4 – Communion Sunday– Rev. Al Abbott in the pulpit

Sept. 11— Rev. Franklin Garton in the pulpit
“What’s With This Forgiveness Stuff?”
 Matthew 18: 21-35

Sept. 18— Rev. Franklin Garton in the pulpit
“Friends, I Do You No Wrong”
 Matthew 20: 1-16

Sept. 25— Rev. Franklin Garton in the pulpit
“The Authority of Jesus”
 Matthew 21: 23-32



**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), **Jo Ann Alexander ,Charlotte Carney** (Manor Care), **Elizabeth Bauer** (Health Concerns), **Ruth Brooks** (Sue Barclay’s mother), **Trudy Curtis** (serious health concerns) , **Judy Markham, Mary & Don Maddox, Lara Plecas** (Jeanne’s daughter, Mother-To-Be), **Jo Ann Alexander, 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.**

WE ARE INVITED.....

First Presbyterian Church of Franklin Grove, Il has invited us to their 150th Anniversary celebration. It will be held at the church **Sunday, September 11, 2011. Service at 9am, followed by a catered lunch and fellowship. Lunch reservations need to be called in to Nancy (815) 994-0622 or Erin (815) 288-5741 by September 1st.**

If you ‘d like to attend, make your plans now.



INTERFAITH SEWING GROUP AT ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH....

This group is seeking your spiritual and financial support.

They supply Kankakee County’s underprivileged children with clothing. The need is growing and donations are shrinking. They would appreciate your support.

Donations may be made to :

Interfaith Sewing Group

Asbury United Methodist Church

196 S. Harrison Ave. Kankakee, IL. 60901

MUSIC NOTES**PAUL JOHNSON****DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY**

Well school is back in session, the cooler air has returned, and the church begins its “regular” schedules. In almost every church I’ve served at, the activities of the Music Ministry are closely linked to the school year. Not exactly sure of all the reasons behind that, besides having kids in school of course. Anyway, here we are at the beginning of a new season, and with help from you, the congregation, I will do my best to bring you a variety of musical elements to morning worship.

It goes without saying that if any of you can sing, or know of people who would like to sing in a choir, I would welcome them. I miss not having enough people to do that. Granted, we only had between 4-6 people before, but it was better than not having a choir (well, small ensemble, to be accurate). In the meantime, we’ll try to schedule vocalists and instrumentalists.

Parents, if enough of you would commit to it, I would be willing to try to get a bell choir and/or kids choir together again, but it is essential that your child/children be there every week to practice, or it simply doesn’t work...the same goes for an adult bell choir. If enough of you are willing to commit to weekly practice we can make that happen as well. Please let me know if you have an interest in any of these possibilities.

Also, there is the possibility of putting together a concert series. I am working on achieving this. I think a small concert series could do a number of positive things for our church: showcase the marvelous instruments and the beautiful historic Sanctuary. If any of you have an interest in helping with this, let me know.

In previous churches I’ve served at I had a drama ministry. It would be nice to see something like that here too. Memorized dramas are always preferred, but a few “Reader’s Theater” things could be done too. Anyone interested??? Let me know.

Finally, I’d like to thank all of you for your support and encouragement. 2011 has been a year full of challenges for this congregation, but in my opinion, we’ve weathered the storm fairly well. Let’s continue to look up and focus on the positive elements of this body.

I close with this from Hebrews 3:13, “But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called ‘Today’, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”

God’s Peace to us all,

Paul

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

Session

Class of 2011

Bonnie Bergeron
Mary Elise Burnett
Vacant

Class of 2012

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

Class of 2013

Vacant
Chris Young

Deacons

Class of 2011

Bernadette LaMore
Gina Zunke

Class of 2012

Anne Muchemi
Vacant

Class of 2013

Elizabeth Bauer
Tina Pitkin