



PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

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April 2010

From Tom's Study

“Am I now seeking human approval, or God's approval? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still pleasing people, I would not be a servant of Christ.” Galatians 1:10

As Paul wrote to the Galatians he made it clear that if we desire to follow the way of Christ, it will be a risk taking journey. Last month I mentioned the five areas where the elders and deacons have discerned that we need to be taking risks as a congregation. Those are:

1. Develop more spiritual growth opportunities particularly an emphasis on small groups, and opportunities for prayer.
2. Youth/Children's Ministry particularly the hiring of a staff person.
3. Outreach to people in the congregation through caring ministries and fellowship opportunities.
4. Mission Opportunities including mission trips and deciding along with the pantry what other mission foci we will adopt.
5. Communication and technology. We want to continue to develop our use of technology and how it helps us communicate with each other and the world.

While it has only been a couple of months since these risks rose up out of the clutter into our awareness, many exciting ventures have already started to take shape. In the area of spiritual growth and small groups a new women's study has begun (Judy Haefner & Sue Reynnells). Pray and play has been a blast for everyone who has stuck around after worship (Wendy Mickle & Pat Conner). At pot-lucks the membership commission has helped us become more interactive giving us opportunities to hear each other's stories (Cheri Duncan & Jan Wilder). An all church golf scramble has been planned for April 18 after church (Chuck Duncan). And an all church retreat has been planned for September 18 & 19 at the Van Buren Youth Camp (Rick Baker). Session has even decided that we will worship at the camp that morning. These are all exciting initiatives with people taking risks to provide the leadership. Let us risk getting involved and inviting our friends.

Cheri Duncan has reached out to area churches inviting them to join together in a community Vacation Bible School. So far five congregations

(Methodist, Episcopalian, Catholic, Red Arrow Ministries, & Presbyterian) have committed to this risky adventure. Presently it looks like VBS will take place at the Middle School from July 26-30. Please put that date on your calendar. It will take everyone's involvement to make this work. Remember it is time to come out of retirement when it comes to working with kids and youth.

Still in the pray and dreaming stage is a similar coming together of local churches to create a community youth group. Please put this on your prayer list. This will take tremendous risk by the churches to work together on a weekly ministry like youth groups. VBS and youth groups are important pieces to our second stated area where we need to risk. Let us not be afraid!

Sharenet and the deacons are working hard at doing more visitations. They are striving to find ways to connect with people from our congregation in need. We would be blessed by everyone taking some risks in this area. How can you provide a caring hand to someone else? Let us be risk takers!

The Mission Commission has begun meeting after church on Sundays so that they have more time to do their work. They would love to have your help (Tom Shoemaker). We continue to strengthen our ties to the Decatur Shelter as well as to Eleanor's Pantry. How can you risk getting more involved in our local mission?

In June the World Council of Reformed Churches is being hosted in Grand Rapids. The session voted to host a delegate. For the last two Sundays in June we will have a guest from somewhere else in the world joining us in worship. This will be a great way for us to learn about Christ's church some where else. Let us risk getting involved!

In terms of technology we hope to upgrade our computers and our internet connections within the church building so that we can continue to develop new ways to communicate the Gospel within our walls and around the world. Do you have gifts that you would like to share? Don't be afraid to risk!

Wow! God's Spirit is truly at work in our midst. Let us risk joining in what the Spirit is doing.

In Christ's Service – Pastor Abbott



Interested in Learning about Church

Membership? We will have a group joining the church toward the end of April. Do you have any interest in learning more about church membership? If so, please give Pastor Tom a call at 657-3111.

Crop Walk: It's time for the annual Crop Walk on Sunday, April 25 at the United Methodist Church. Sign up is at 1:00 and the walk is at 2:00.

Adult Small Groups

Sunday School: Royal and Judy Haefner will be leading a study of Matthew's Gospel in the Library at 9:30 a.m. Tom Shoemaker will be leading a study in the Lounge. Tom's class is beginning a series focusing on the topic of love and respect in marriage. Please risk getting involved in one of these opportunities for spiritual growth.

Monday Night Study: The Monday night study continues at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. We will meet on April 12, 19, & 26. We will take off **April 5** for Spring Break. Come and join us as we look ahead to the Scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday morning.

Attention Men: Men's breakfast will take place on Saturday, **April 24th**, at 8:00 a.m. Each month we share a wonderful meal, spend some time reflecting on God's Word (presently we are studying 2 Corinthians), and sometimes we do a bit of work around the church or in the community. We would love to have you join us.

Worship Opportunities

Sunday Worship Times: In April we will have two services at 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. all four Sundays.

Sacrament of Communion: We will celebrate communion on Sunday, April 4th.

Holy Week Schedule:

1. April 2 there will be a community Good Friday Service at 1:00 p.m. at First Christian Church.
2. April 4, Easter worship services at 8:15 and 11:00.

Invite a Friend: One of the ways we can be a beacon in our community is by simply inviting people to join us in worship. People's spirits are thirsty. Let us invite them to the well that never runs dry. Holy Week is a great time to invite some one to join you in worship. Make sure to offer to pick them up.

Parking on Sundays: If you don't mind walking a bit, we would encourage folks to park on the street leaving the parking lot for folks who have a hard time walking, visitors, and parents with a car full of kids.

Meetings

Commission Meetings: Some commissions will meet on April 20th, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to participate in our commissions.

Session & Deacon Meetings: The session and deacon meetings begin at 8:00 p.m. on **April 20th**.

Children's Ministry



Join Us At VBS!

Vacation Bible School Update: This year we are having an ecumenical VBS with many participating churches. The theme is "High Seas Expedition— Exploring the Mighty Love of God". We will have more information about place, times and our needs. If you're interested in volunteering to help, please contact Cheri Duncan at 674-3962 or 415-0500. The more people who help, the lighter the work.

Crib Room Volunteers Needed: We're looking for volunteers to work in the Crib Room and Abraham's Tent on Sunday mornings from 10:45 to 12:15. If enough people volunteer this will be only a once a month commitment. If you're interested, please contact Marge McKee at 375-0518 or Bill Welling, 657-7317.

Presbyterian Women

Pledges are due. Envelopes are in the pews and are marked Presbyterian Women. Please give your pledge to our treasurer Frieda Durringer or drop your pledge in the collection basket on Sunday. There are no dues for PW, just give as much as you feel you're able. All your help is appreciated. Thank you.

Mission Opportunities

Joint Food Pantry: If you have any questions about how you might help with the pantry please connect with Wendy Charles (674-3827). I am sure we can find a niche for you.

Sound Person: Sue Reynnells is working to coordinate the running of the sound booth. If you would be willing to help please contact her at 674-3195.

Technology: We want to be hearing your feedback about the projection equipment. What is working, what needs to be improved, what needs to be changed? We would particularly be interested in finding people to help match Scripture passages with both picture images and video clips. If you would be interested in this kind of adventure please give Andy Thorburn a call at 624-6901.

Are you looking for a place to serve? Are you looking for a place to use your gifts? Please be thinking about involvement in these local mission opportunities: *Lunch with Friends, Habitat for Humanity, Restorative Justice, Joint Food Pantry – Eleanor’s Pantry, and United Christian Services.* If you have any questions about any of these please contact Pastor Abbott at 657-3111.

Mission Commission News

The community food pantry is seeing a lot of activity these days. How exciting it is for local churches to be acting together in providing food for those in need in the Paw Paw area. Our church representative to the pantry supervision group is Wendy Charles. If you have questions about volunteering to work a shift or in general about how you can help, Wendy is the person to get in touch with.

One of the commodities not readily available to those who visit the pantry for assistance is laundry soap. There are restrictions in place at the pantry that govern how much and how often particular products can be received and laundry soap is a popular choice so it is often in short supply. This being the case, the mission commission has volunteered to make First Presbyterian the laundry soap and toilet paper church. Congregants and friends who have these two valuable commodities on their shopping lists when happening upon a good buy should add an extra purchase to their cart and bring it to the church. There is a bin in the narthex for these items and they will get delivered to the pantry quickly.

The community garden is about to spring into activity. The hope is that the garden will provide fresh produce for the food pantry and for members of our church. Mission commission members are planning the planting and have been in contact with other agencies concerning sharing in the implementation of the project.

The commission has also deemed May as the month to increase awareness about recycling. Since Styrofoam will not biodegrade its life in a landfill is

much like that of Methuselah of Old Testament fame. Commission members will be diligently working in the kitchen throughout the month of May to do dishes in an effort to be more green. It is our hope that others will pick up the cause and carry it out through the calendar year.

The commission would like to recognize Drew Marcelletti for his generous donation of a TV set, VHS player, video tapes and video games to the children at the Homeless Shelter in Decatur. It was a pleasure to see the excitement of the children who were staying there when Drew brought in the boxes and boxes of games and videos. If you see Drew be sure to let him know that you appreciate his act of giving to others.

Administration News

The Administration Commission is off to a busy start in 2010. We welcome three new members to the Commission this year. They are:

Elder Sue Reynnells
Elder Cheri Duncan
Elder Rick Baker

We are focusing on job descriptions and staff design as they relate to our youth ministry programs at First Presbyterian and our community. Currently, the Christian Education and Administration Commissions are advertising for and interviewing candidates for the Pre-School Coordinator. This will be a paid position to staff both a nursery room for infants and add a program for the 3 through 5 year old youngsters. We plan to offer two programs to differentiate the type of care and activity level for these age groups. We want both the nursery and pre-school programs to be a welcoming and inviting experience for our kids and visitors. Sue and Cheri from the Administration Commission are serving with Marge McKee and Bill Welling from the Christian Education Commission on this search committee.

The Administration Commission is anticipating a busy year looking for ways to implement and support the Mission of our church. We will be designing the annual Financial Campaign, conducting job reviews, monitoring and supporting the job search process, and monitoring the financial expenses and sources of income.

We welcome help from anyone who would like to work with us and join the Commission. We normally meet the first Monday of each month. Please contact Wendy Mickle, Pastor Tom, or me if you would like to participate in the life of this church leadership.

Andy Thorburn



Happy Birthday!

- 04/01 Shawn Dundon
- 04/02 April Miller
- 04/03 Sarah Diemer
- 04/04 Julie* Holt
- 04/04 Susan* Erion
- 04/04 Jerry* Miller
- 04/05 Sharon* Soule
- 04/06 Brad Martin
- 04/06 Kaitlyn Walters
- 04/07 Kristen* Welling
- 04/07 Lizzie Grate
- 04/07 Jenna Connolly
- 04/08 Mary* Adams
- 04/08 Wyatt* Boothby-Shoemaker
- 04/09 Susan Elise Cutting
- 04/10 Scott* Beck
- 04/11 Randal Rhodes
- 04/11 Daniel Vought
- 04/12 Max Crawford
- 04/13 Lucas Pursley
- 04/14 Timothy* Combs
- 04/15 Betty* Faul
- 04/15 Lauren Sherburn
- 04/19 Kathleen* Weisner
- 04/20 J.B.* Thorstenson
- 04/22 Lily Imus
- 04/23 Lon Frazier
- 04/24 Rachel* Kube
- 04/27 Brooke Taylor
- 04/29 Scott* Smith
- 04/30 Clyde* Maylath

Congratulations on new births to families in our congregation

Sophie Manon to Kim and Christian Gaedeke; maternal grandparents, Judy and Royal Haefner.
 Madison Leigh to Troy and Shelly Imus; paternal grandparents, Sally and Dick Shallhorn.

Happy Anniversary!

- 04/03 Bob & Crecia Tiffany
- 04/05 Sue & Fred Martin
- 04/06 Eilene & Fred Summe
- 04/10 Freida & Harold Durringer
- 04/13 Carie & John Faul
- 04/15 Jan & Bert Ogden
- 04/25 Colleen & Doug Stiles

Crib Room Volunteers

We're looking for volunteers to work in the Crib Room and Abraham's Tent on Sunday mornings from 10:45 to 12:15. If you're interested, please contact Marge McKee at 375-0518 or Bill Welling, 657-7317.

Thought for the Month: HE IS RISEN!

He is not here for he has been raised as he said. So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples.

Matthew 28:6-8

Lake Cora Golf Outing – April 18

Please contact Cheri Duncan if you're interested in this event. We will start at 2:00. The cost is \$24 per person for 18 holes and a cart, \$15 for 9 holes & cart. We may bring our own food and grill if we choose. See Cheri after church if you wish to sign up. We need to get a head count as soon as possible.

Young Life: Young Life folks meet at 6:10 p.m. in the parking lot at the church on Monday nights. Call Samuel Abbott at 657-3788.

Eleanor's Pantry

Since Eleanor's Pantry opened in August, there have been a total of 524 families served – 2346 adults and 1631 children within those families. There were a total of 1270 visits. Approximate meals provided to date: 35,793. Your contributions are always needed. You may drop them off at the church or directly to Eleanor's Pantry during their open hours, Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 to 1 or Tues., Thurs. 3-6.

More volunteers are always welcome.

Sharenet News

Sharenet needs donations of birthday, anniversary, get well, sympathy and thinking of you cards, as well as postage stamps.

Sharenet is visiting people the fourth Tuesday of the month if you know of someone who'd like a visit call the church office, 657-3111 or Jan Wilder, 657-6161.

Church Directory

Plans are spinning along for the new Church Directory, if you haven't had a chance to set up an appointment for your photograph to be in the directory please call Pat Conner at 760-2076 or Jan Wilder at 657-6161 as soon as possible or catch us at church on Sunday we have our schedules with us. Dates are filling fast but we still have some openings on Friday, April 30th & Saturday May 1st.

If you have photographs that you are willing to share of church related events from 2009-10 please contact us as well, there will again be several activity pages to fill.

Once again, our book will reflect the life of our church through pictures of members & friends who worship, share in work and in play together for God. It won't be complete without YOU!

Flower Sign Up

We continue to need flowers for the Sanctuary each Sunday. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board hidden behind the door to the lounge.

April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thursday 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting 12:30 Prayer Service	2 1:00 Good Friday Ecumenical Service at First Christian	3
4 Easter Sunday 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play	5	6	7 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	9 Directory Photos	10 Directory Photos
11 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play	12 7:00 Bible Study	13 10:30 Sharenet	14 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends 6:30 Potluck 7:00 Boy Scouts	15 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting Thrift sale setup 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16 Thrift Sale setup	17 8:00-3:00 Thrift Sale
18 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play	19 7:00 Bible Study	20 6:30 Commissions 7:30 Joint Worship 8:00 Session/ Deacons Meetings	21 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends 7:00 Boy Scouts	22 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23	24 8:00 Men's Breakfast 2:00 Terry Vaughn Recital
25 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play	26 7:00 Bible Study	27 10:30 Sharenet	28 8:00 TOPS 9:30 PW Bible Study 10:30 PW Meeting 12:00 Lunch with Friends 7:00 Boy Scouts	29 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	30 Directory Photos	

The Deacons will be hosting the Fellowship time on April 11th in celebration of the NCAA basketball tournament. We'll be having "tournament food" – hot dogs, sloppy joes, chips, etc., so mark your calendars to join us in this fun filled time!



Regular Potluck:
April 14th, at 6:30 p.m.
Invite a friend and bring some food to share and your own table service.

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April Sermon Schedule

April 1st – Prayer services from 12:30 to 1:00

April 2nd – Community Good Friday Service

April 4th – Easter/Resurrection of the Lord - Communion
Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-12, I Corinthians 5:6b-8, Luke 24:13-49

Sermon Title: “Open Eyes”

Synopsis: The idea of resurrection takes us by surprise. We may not believe it. We cannot understand it. We can, however, experience it and live in it and through it, but only if our eyes are open to the possibility of life following death. Have your eyes been opened to the possibility of resurrection and what it means for your life?

April 11th – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Scripture Reading: Psalm 100, Luke 7:1-10, Galatians 1:1-12

Sermon Title: “The Gospel of Pleasing People”

Synopsis: Paul begins most of his letters with an encouraging word, but not the church in Galatia. Paul is deeply concerned about the Galatians because they have fallen under the spell of a “gospel” different from the Gospel of Christ. Paul points out, that one litmus test for the Gospel is whether it focuses on pleasing people. How do we live our lives? Do we live a “gospel” of people pleasing?

April 18th – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Scripture Reading: Psalm 113, I Kings 17:17-24, Galatians 1:13-24

Sermon Title: “A Transformed Life”

Synopsis: Paul points out that we know a person is following the Gospel of Christ because their life has clearly been transformed. How is your life different, how is our life different because of the Gospel of Christ?

April 25th – 4th Sunday of Easter

Scripture Reading: Psalm 84, Matthew 6:19-24, Galatians 2:1-10

Sermon Title: “Do We Run in Vain?”

Synopsis: Is our ministry bearing fruit for the Kingdom of God or is our ministry in vain? That is a critical question as we consider how we live out our life together as a church. What aspects of our church life might be in vain?

Thrift Sale April 17

Are you doing some spring cleaning? We'll take all those discarded items you'd like to see disappear. Take home a box and fill it with books, clothes, canning supplies, shoes, handbags, scarves, jewelry, games, CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes and the list goes on.

Donations will be accepted on Thursday, April 15 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday, April 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For pick-ups and furniture storage, call Jan Wilder, 657-6161. We also need donations of baked goods and volunteers to work both setting up Thursday and Friday as well as during the sale on Saturday.

Bake sale goods contact Marge McKee, 375-0518. Work volunteers contact Jan Wilder 657-6161.

Pray and Play

Our game playing time after church on Sundays has become quite popular. We have been playing bridge, euchre, cribbage, Scrabble, Sequence, Chinese checkers, Cranium, and the list goes on and on. We welcome all ages and it is not limited to our congregation. So, ask your friends to join you for fun and games for a couple hours after church. A light lunch is served, and we do provide rides home for those who need them. Hope to see you there!!