



PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

120 Pine St – 269-657-3111 – firstpres1@btc-bci.com – <http://1stpresb.pawpawmi.us>

Volume 80, Issue 8

October 2011

From Tom's Study

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God" Matthew 5:3

I want to start by saying thank you. Thank you to everyone who helped make the community 9/11 worship service a possibility. Thank you to everyone who made the church retreat a blast and a gift. Thank you to all who created the beautiful banners that grace our sanctuary. Thank you to all who have planned and worked to get our programming ready for the fall. Thank you to everyone who uses her or his God given gifts to serve the Kingdom of God. Thank you for all the ways we minister in the Paw Paw area. It is a blessing to be the people of God.

This fall we are studying the Beatitudes, the opening statements of wisdom from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Each Beatitude begins with the word "Blessed". Blessed literally means, "I am on your side". Jesus wants us to know that the Triune God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, the Creator of all we see and don't see, the giver of life, the Savior of the world, the sustainer of our lives is on our side. In the first Beatitude Jesus teaches the world that when we admit our dependence on this God, then we enter the very Kingdom of God. How amazing is that!!!

Jesus challenges us to live our lives as a response to this amazing gift of God's grace, to build our house on the foundation of God is how Jesus states it at the end of his great sermon. Following Jesus is choosing to live a life of response because we realize our complete dependence on God. Another word for this life of response is stewardship. Stewardship is our saying thank you God for not only giving us life and providing all that we have, but for also being on our side.

As a congregation we increase the impact of our joyful response to God's grace by joining the stewardship of our lives together. It is astounding to think of the impact we are having through Lunch with Friends, Sunday school, Eleanor's Pantry, Bible studies, the Decatur Shelter, the music program, Young Life, Wings of God, Worship, fellowship opportunities, sharenets, the building, and all that you do and we do to serve in and around the community.

God has blessed us immeasurably, what a gift to live our lives as a response! What a joy to live as

stewards of God's blessing! I can't wait to see how God will use our stewardship to impact the world in 2012. Thanks for the gift of sharing in this blessed life together.

In Christ's Service – Pastor Abbott



Interested in Joining the Church? There will be three weeks of classes beginning October 2nd, for anyone who would like to investigate what it means to be a member. If you have questions please contact Pastor Abbott at 657-3111.

Adult Small Groups

Attention Men: Men's breakfast will take place on Saturday, **October 22**, at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All men are invited and we would love to have you join us for this time of food, fellowship, and study.

Monday Night Bible Study: Each Monday night we join at 7:00 p.m. in the Library to study the Scripture Passages for the upcoming Sunday. It would be a gift to have you join us.

Sunday Morning Classes: There are two Sunday morning classes, each beginning at 9:45. All are invited to check them out.

Worship Opportunities

Sunday Worship Times: Each Sunday in October there is a worship service at 8:15 and 11:00.

World Communion Sunday: Every year we have the gift of celebrating communion with millions of Christians from around the world. Don't miss this special time around our Lord's Table on October 2nd.

Peacemaking Sunday: On October 2nd we will celebrate Christ's call to be peacemakers. How are you making peace in our world?

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. 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

Congregational Meeting: The session has called a congregational meeting, for Sunday, October 16, immediately following the 11:00 service, for the purpose of changing the number of elders and deacons, making changes to the by-laws, electing officers, and setting the pastor's terms of call.

Commission Meetings: Before attending a commission please check with the chairperson to make sure they are meeting at the regular time.

Administration Commission: Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in various locations. Contact Wendy Mickle for details 657-6738.

Education Commission: Meets the Sunday before the 3rd Tuesday after the 2nd worship service.

Mission Commission: Meets the Sunday before the 3rd Tuesday after the 2nd worship service.

Membership/Worship Commission: Meets on the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Properties Commission: Meets the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Session & Deacon Meetings: The Session and Deacon meetings will take place on Tuesday, October 18, at 8:00 p.m.

Fellowship

Monthly Potluck: Invite a friend to join you on Wednesday, October 12th, 6:30 p.m. for potluck. We have great food and a wonderful time together.

Weekly Fellowship: Stick around and enjoy building relationships with each other after every service of worship. The food is always good as well. This a great time to grab a friend and spend some time in prayer.

Youth Ministry

Wyldlife: Attention middle school folks! We will meet on October 2, and 16, from 4:00 to 5:30 at Red Arrow Ministries. Bring your parents or a friend or two or three. We would love to have you.

Young Life: High school people please check your Facebook page for the latest Young Life news. Young Life meets most Monday nights, somewhere in the area, from sometime in the evening to later in the evening. Believe me you don't want to miss it.

Young Life Banquet: Through Young Life an exciting community wide youth ministry is reaching out and connecting with our middle school and high school students. One way we can support Young Life is by learning about the ministry so we can share our excitement with others. Come to the Young Life Banquet on Monday, October 24, 6:00 p.m. at the Bridge church in Portage. If you have an interest please contact Deb Abbott at 657-3788.

Middle School Sunday School: Adam Brown is leading the middle schoolers each Sunday morning. Their class will begin in the Gathering group at 10:00 a.m.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: Sunday mornings-Don't miss them. Come for good study, community and food from 9:30 to 10:30 in the Youth room. Plus, we're taking worship trips once a month to experience how God is at work among his people all over Paw Paw and Kalamazoo.

Children's Ministry

Sunday School for pre-school through middle school: Gathering group meets at 10:00 each Sunday morning with individual classes following. All is new so come and check it out.

Teachers Needed: This year teachers will have a partner for a three to four week stint of teaching. If you would be willing to help please contact Danean Baker (657-7803) or Sue Reynnells (674-3195).

Mission Commission News:

Second Saturday for Service

Second Saturday for service will return in October. Join us at the church on Saturday morning the 8th of October at 9:00 AM for a time of mission work and fellowship. We have activities planned for the Wings of God house and the Decatur Homeless Shelter as well as food ministry. If you have additional ideas or are in need of this type of help yourself share your opportunities with Tom Shoemaker, Jake Pursley or Deb Abbott.

MARK THE DATE! The Mission Commission is planning a weekend mission trip to Detroit to work with our friends in the Korean Presbyterian Church. We will be leaving on the evening of Friday the 4th of November and returning in the afternoon on

Sunday, the 6th. More details will be available soon. If you have questions please contact Tom Shoemaker.

Be good stewards of the gifts we have been given!

Your friendly Mission Commission reminds you to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Our recycle containers are clearly labeled and easily found in our kitchen area of fellowship hall.

2 cents a meal

Since changing to the plates of joy way of giving our monthly contributions to the 2¢ a meal program have dwindled. The buckets are in the back of the sanctuary every third Sunday and in need of filling. All the money taken in goes to our local food pantry. Please remind yourself to contribute even though we no longer pass the buckets.

Eleanor’s Pantry: Don’t forget to shop for the pantry when you are at the store. Or if you are able, help the pantry out with a financial gift. Looking for a gift for that special someone? Make a donation to the pantry in their honor. Everyone will be grateful.

Wings of God House: We have completed the landscaping work, replaced the windows, sanded the floors, and painted the rooms. All areas have been adopted by people or organizations, and the current work is on the kitchens and bathrooms, which is taking a bit of time. We don't have an open house date yet.

Joint Food Pantry: If you have any questions about how you might help with the pantry please connect with Sue Miller (657-4601). I am sure we can find a niche for you.

Tremendous Need: We truly need people who are interested in learning how to run the sound system and the video projection system. If you have such an interest please connect with the church office.

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, Eleanor’s Pantry, Wings of God, Recovery Bash, The Decatur Shelter and United Christian Services.* If you have any questions about any of these please contact Pastor Abbott at 657-3111.

Questionnaire: First Presbyterian Church

The Worship and Membership commission and the Session of this church would like to use this questionnaire as one means of communicating with the congregation on where you see our church and where you think God is leading us. As always, every member of the Session and Pastor Tom Abbott are available to discuss any concerns you have. Please fill out the questionnaire and return to church by dropping in the basket next to the offering plates at the back of the sanctuary, hand to

any member of Session, or mail to the church office at your earliest convenience.

1. Why do you think God created the church?
2. What is its purpose as best as we can tell from Scripture and tradition?
3. What would you say are our strengths as a congregation in carrying out God’s mission of being the church?
4. Where would you say we have room to grow in carrying out God’s mission of being the church?
5. What would you say are the barriers that have developed for us as a church in carrying out God’s mission?
6. How might we overcome some of those barriers?
7. If you could miraculously help our congregation grow in one area of ministry or mission, what would that be?
8. What would be useful in helping you to grow spiritually stronger and to follow Christ more closely?



- 10/01 Roger* McGuire
- 10/01 Susan Kaiser Greenland
- 10/01 Brenda* Beck
- 10/04 Rocky Lee* Sherburn
- 10/05 Jennifer* Combs
- 10/05 Michael Turk
- 10/05 Nicole* Colgren
- 10/05 Luke Rhodes
- 10/06 Bobby* Yarbrough
- 10/07 Kristen* Garceau
- 10/07 Rick* Dunkerly
- 10/08 Kathy* Vought
- 10/08 Kyle Hess
- 10/09 Walt Weddington
- 10/10 Matthew Dundon
- 10/12 Patricia* Peters
- 10/12 Brandon Mroczek
- 10/12 Lauren Mroczek
- 10/12 Matthew Mroczek
- 10/13 Amanda Buhl
- 10/16 Tyson Buhl
- 10/17 Adele* Walters
- 10/17 Cathryn Turk
- 10/20 Michael* Walters
- 10/20 Mitchell Walker
- 10/21 Mary Ellen* Smith
- 10/21 Richard* Baker
- 10/21 Ariel* Woods
- 10/22 Diane* Triquet
- 10/22 Wayne Hopson
- 10/24 Camryn Baney
- 10/25 Ellen McGuire
- 10/25 Gordon* Vlieg
- 10/25 Drew Cooper
- 10/25 Theron* Walker
- 10/27 Katie Miller
- 10/28 Claire* Thorstenson
- 10/29 Nicole Taylor
- 10/29 Brady Sherburn
- 10/30 Taylor Imus
- 10/31 Wendy* Major



- 10/04 Judy & Royal Haefner
- 10/04 Gene & Phyllis Gruizenga-Sahr
- 10/08 Kim & Christian Gaedke
- 10/14 Kathy & Robert Vought
- 10/14 Jaime & Jake Pursley
- 10/15 Barbara & Greg Rhodes
- 10/24 Chri & Chuck Duncan
- 10/24 Karen & Steve Racette
- 10/27 Troy & Shelly Imus

Thank you

To Johnell Cuddeback
Weintraub, Sue Reynnells,
Donna Zabonick and Mary
Burkett for folding newsletters
last month and to Jim
vanWestrienen for folding
Sunday bulletins.

Typewriter Needed

If anyone has a working
electronic typewriter they no
longer use, please contact the
church office and talk to
Bonnie. I could use one here
but not often enough to buy
one.



Church Facebook Page

If you are on Facebook, come
by and be a fan! If you
aren't, you might want to
consider it. Here's the link to
the Facebook page:
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Paw-Paw/142595359136642>
Or you can do a search for First
Presbyterian Church Paw Paw
and it will pop up.

Presbyterian Women's Fall

Tea and Style Show

Tuesday, Oct. 25
6:30

Tickets \$8.00

Sales open to the public
this year so let your friends
know. Reserve seating
must be by an entire table.

Fashions this year are
provided by Christopher
Banks, Crossroads

Volunteers needed for
Wings of God Transition
Home
Administrator for WOG
Facebook page (cyber savvy
person)
Business Development (contact
local businesses to help supply
needs)
Adopt-a-Room
(prepare/decorate a bedroom for
residents)
Continuing house renovations
(all laborers appreciated)
Grant writing (experience
needed)
Tell us what talents you have to
share
Contact us by email
info@wingsofgodinc.org;
by phone 269-415-0777;
by mail Wings of God
Transition Home, Inc.
PO Box 3, Paw Paw MI 49079

Thought for the Month
O Lord, be gracious to
us; we wait for you. Be
our arm every morning,
our salvation in the time
of trouble.
Isaiah 33:2

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Communion 8:15 Worship 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship Fellowship 4:00 Wyldlife	3 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Comm. Chorus Young Life	4 3:30 Digging Deeper	5 8:00 TOPs 12:00 Lunch With Friends	6 9:00 PALs 12:00 Rotary Club 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	7	8 9:00 Service Saturday
9 8:15 Worship 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship Fellowship	10 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Comm. Chorus Young Life	11 10:00 Sharenet 3:30 Digging Deeper	12 8:00 TOPs 12:00 Lunch With Friends 6:30 Potluck	13 9:00 PALs 12:00 Rotary Club 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	14	15
16 2 ¢ a Meal 8:15 Worship 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship Congregational Meeting Fellowship 4:00 Wyldlife	17 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Comm. Chorus Young Life	18 3:30 Digging Deeper 6:00 Commissions 7:30 Joint Worship 8:00 Session/Deacons Mtgs.	19 8:00 TOPs 12:00 Lunch With Friends	20 9:00 PALs 12:00 Rotary Club 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	21	22 8:00 Men's Breakfast
23 8:15 Worship 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship Fellowship	24 6:30 Youth Banquet 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Comm. Chorus Young Life	25 3:30 Digging Deeper 6:30 PW Tea and Style Show	26 8:00 TOPs 12:00 Lunch With Friends	27 9:00 PALs 12:00 Rotary Club 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	28	29
30 8:15 Worship 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship Fellowship	31 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Comm. Chorus Young Life					

From the Administration Commission

Over the past weeks we have experienced new and exciting worship venues with the 9/11 Memorial Service and the retreat at Van Buren County Youth Camp.

With the congregation meeting outside our traditional place of worship, many of us have not had the opportunity to keep up with our pledges. I would encourage everyone to take a few minutes and make sure you are on track to meet your pledge commitment for 2011. Our beacon only shines if we continue to provide it with light, thank you!

Memorial Vases

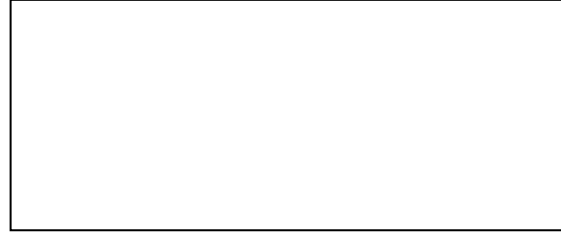
Recently our Church received a pair of lovely vases in memory of Paul and Bette Kaiser. These smaller scale, brass and copper vases, are a perfect size for garden flowers. As you know, we encourage people to bring in their garden flowers for worship because they are so beautiful. If you are interested in using the vases for services, please check at the Church office. Our flower sign up chart is located in the Narthex.

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October Sermon Schedule

October 2 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time – World Communion

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:24-27, James 3:13-18, Romans 12:1-2, 9-21, Matthew 5:9

Sermon Title: “Blessed Are the Peacemakers”

Synopsis: How does one make peace? Where have you seen peace be made? How did that happen? As people who make peace we become true children of God. The Kingdom of God is a place of peace. How can we more fully join in the Divine work of peacemaking?

October 9 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:24-27, Psalm 37:1-11, Isaiah 11:1-12, Matthew 5:5

Sermon Title: “Blessed Are the Meek”

Synopsis: Here we go again, “Blessed are the meek!” How can that be? That does not make sense in the world in which we live. Living in God’s Kingdom is obviously different than living in the kingdoms of this world. What does meek mean and how might meekness be a blessing in the living of our lives?

October 16 – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:24-27, Isaiah 49:8-13, Proverbs 11:1-9, Matthew 5:6

Sermon Title: “Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness”

Synopsis: Hunger and thirst are not really a part of our American lives. Wants and cravings might better describe the yearnings we feel. What do we want? What do we crave? Do we want and crave righteousness? Does such an idea ever cross our minds? According to Jesus righteousness is what will fill us!

October 23 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:24-27, 2 Chronicles 30:6-9, James 5:7-11, Matthew 5:7

Sermon Title: “Blessed Are the Merciful”

Synopsis: When have you received mercy in your life? What was that experience like? Through Scripture God is described as a merciful God. Mercy is an attribute of God. Jesus challenges us to be people of mercy, as God is merciful. James seems to equate mercy with patience. That seems like an important idea to me. How much patience do we really have with other people?

October 30 – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:24-27, Psalm 24, Philippians 1:9-11, 4:8-9, Matthew 5:8

Sermon Title: “Blessed Are the Pure in Heart”

Synopsis: How does a person go about assessing the state of one’s heart? Do you, do I, do we have a pure heart? Jesus tells us that when our heart is pure we see God. That is an astounding statement. It makes it clear that paying attention to the state of our heart is critical for our relationship with God. How can we more fully live with a pure heart?



Celebrate Halloween

With a Chili Cookoff

Sunday October 23 after service

It won’t be scary or spine tingling but it will be delicious and a wonderful time for fall fellowship.

So bring your friends and neighbors for many kinds of chili, cornbread and desserts to kick off Halloween week.

Adult Prayer Group

Meeting 9 a.m. on Fridays

Pat & Dave Connor’s, 217 Drew St.

(Next to Eleanor’s Pantry)

This will be an opportunity to identify and pray about concerns in our church.

For details contact Pat at 760-2076 or Nancy Turk, 423-7645.