



# PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

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Volume 78, Issue 8

October 2010

*From the  
Pastor*



*“Then Moses and the levitical priests spoke to all Israel, saying: Keep silence and hear, O Israel! This very day you have become the people of the Lord your God. Therefore obey the Lord your God, observing his commandments and his statutes that I am commanding you today.” Deuteronomy 27:9-10*

Stewardship. When you hear the word stewardship what comes to mind? When you hear the word stewardship what happens in your heart? Is stewardship a positive word or a negative word?

As a congregation, each year during October and November we focus on this theological notion of stewardship. How do you feel about that? Do you dread this time of year or does your heart leap with joy at the thought of stewardship? Most likely our reaction falls somewhere in-between dread and joy.

How we feel about the topic of stewardship primarily depends on our understanding of stewardship. If you haven't already crumpled up the newsletter and thrown it in the trashcan, how do you understand stewardship from a theological or Biblical perspective?

I think Moses hits the nail on the head as he is preparing the Israelites to enter the Promised Land. Moses said, “This very day you have become the people of the Lord your God.” Our view of stewardship primarily depends on who we belong to. Are we the people of God? Or are we people of our own making? Or are we people of a certain land? Or are we people of a certain political bent? Or are we people of a certain philosophy? To whom do we belong?

One day Jesus was asked about paying taxes. He said, “Give me a coin.” Then he said, “Whose picture is on the coin.” The person responded “Caesar”. Jesus responded, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.” To whom do we belong? Do we belong to Caesar or to God?

“This very day you have become the people of the Lord your God.” Do we belong to God? Is the living of our lives directed by the fact that we belong to God? Is the use of our resources and our talents directed by the fact that we belong to God? If we understand ourselves as the people of God, then stewardship takes on a different bent. If we belong to God, then all that we have and all that we are also belong to God. That is a radical notion, isn't it? That puts a different spin on stewardship, on financial campaigns, on being the church, on being Tom, on being you.

“This very day you have become the people of the Lord your God.” What if we made that our proclamation as well? What would change? What would be different? How would it affect the living of our lives? How would it affect our understanding of stewardship? How would it affect the light of our beacon?

“This very day you have become the people of the Lord your God.” Personally, I find that great news and a tremendous challenge. I hope that together we can dialogue about, embrace, and grow into our true identity as the people of the Lord our God.

In Christ's Service – Pastor Abbott



**GIVE,  
AND  
IT  
WILL  
BE  
GIVEN  
TO  
YOU**

Luke 6:38

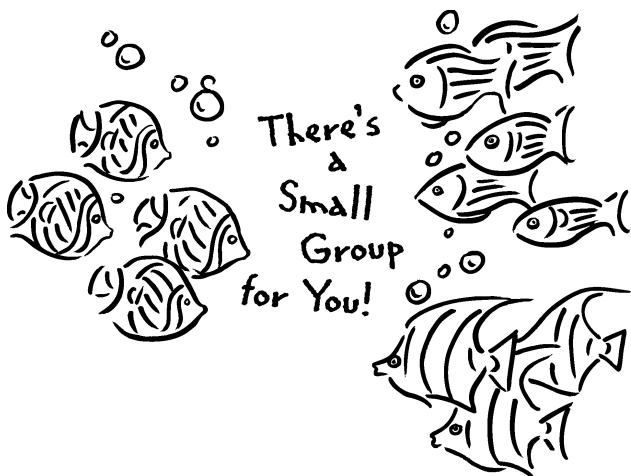


**Exciting Upcoming Events**

**Pastoral Resident:** We are excited to announce that we will again have the privilege of hosting a pastoral resident in conjunction with the Presbyterian Churches of Schoolcraft and Benton Harbor. Our Pastoral Resident this year will be Jason Mariano and he will primarily be in Paw Paw during the months of November and December. Jason just graduated from Western Theological Seminary. He is married with two daughters 5 and 2. We look forward to Jason's time with us.

**Interested in Learning about Church Membership?** If you find yourself interested please give Pastor Tom a call at 657-3111. Presently there is a new member class from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings in Pastor Abbott's study. If you have any interest please come and join us. We will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Picture Directory:** Our directories are in and you may pick yours up after any service if you haven't done so already. See Pat Conner or Jan Wilder.



**Monday Night Study:** The Monday night study will resume on **October 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.** This class looks at the upcoming scripture passages for Sunday morning. People find this a helpful way to prepare for worship. We would love to have you join us.

**Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study:** We will be meeting every two weeks for the balance of the year. Meetings are at 6:30 p.m. in the lounge and we are using the study guide, "Becoming a Woman of Grace". Our meeting dates are October 6 & 20, November 3 and 27, and December 1 & 15. For more information contact Sue Reynnells or Judy Haefner

**Adult Sunday School Classes:**  
**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY**  
 At 9:30 each Sunday Morning a group meets in the library to study scripture. We are finishing the Gospel of Matthew (we are at Chapter 25). We expect to be starting the book of Acts in early in November. All young people not involved in a Sunday School class are welcome to join us. The class is led by Royal and Judith Haefner and uses the Bible as our primary resource. Commentaries

and other references add to our understanding of the scriptures. Please join us in the library if you are interesting in studying scripture.

**SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION, 9:45** in the lounge with Tom Shoemaker. **Your God Is Too Safe** by Mark Buchanan

**Chancel Choir:** The choir practices on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to come and join in the singing and the fun.

**Attention Men:** Men's breakfast will take place on Saturday, **October 23<sup>rd</sup>**, 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.

**Elder/Deacon Retreat:** The elders and deacons are invited to participate in a Spiritual Renewal retreat at the Hermitage on October 29 and 30. We will leave the church at 5:30 p.m. on the 29<sup>th</sup>. We begin our retreat with dinner at 6:30 at the Hermitage. The retreat will come to a close around 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Contact Pastor Abbott for more information at 657-3111.

**Elder/Deacon Training:** On October 17 we will elect new elders and deacons. Training begins for those folks on Sunday, October 24. This training is open to everyone. This training is a great way to learn about the church and some of the needs that we have at this time in our history. The group will be deciding whether to meet during the Sunday school hour or after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service. You are welcome and encouraged to participate.



**Sunday Worship Times:** Through all of October and November there will be two services at 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

**Sacrament of Communion:** We will celebrate communion on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at both worship services. This is World Communion Sunday so don't miss this powerful time of celebrating the Body of Christ.



**Peacemaking:** The first Sunday of October brings to us a focus on Peacemaking. Our denomination is involved in promoting the process of peacemaking all around the world. We can help this process through our special offerings. We can also help this process by how we choose to interact with other people. How are we peacemakers in the 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 17, immediately following the 11:00 service. This meeting is for the purpose of electing officers and for setting the terms of call for the pastor. Your presence and participation is important.

**Commission Meetings:** Please check with your chairperson for meeting times in October. Some commissions will meet on Tuesday, October 19, at 6:30 p.m.

**Session & Deacon Meetings:** Session and Deacon meetings will take place on Tuesday, October 19, at 8:00 p.m.



**Young Life:** Attention all high school people. Young Life has started and is meeting on most Monday nights. Check your Facebook or the Paw Paw Young Life Facebook page for the latest news and information. You can also talk to Hanna Abbott or John Slater at school.

**Middle School Youth Group:** A community youth group is beginning each 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday afternoons from 4:00-5:30 p.m. at Red Arrow Ministries. We look forward to seeing you on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

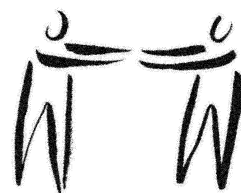
**Sunday School:** Don't miss out on the fun every Sunday morning from 9:45 to 10:45. There is a

class for both high school and middle school people.



**Sunday School:** The rotation this time is on Noah's Ark. The next one in two weeks will be about Abraham. We still need one teacher to fill in. The lesson plan is created for you. All you have to do is follow it. Contact Marge if you're willing at 375-0518.

Scott Beck and Cheri Duncan will be teaching the 5<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Helping children to find answers to everyday life through scriptures. Gathering Group starts at 9:30. Please be sure to come on time so we can get started.



Reach out to those in need

**Project Connect:** Once a year there is a wonderful opportunity for people of Van Buren County to learn about all the different services available when a person finds themselves in need. That opportunity is called Project Connect. It will take place on Thursday, October 14 at the Van Buren Conference Center in Lawrence. There is always a need for volunteers and a need for cookies. If you would like to help in some way please call Eleanor Miller at 657-4008.

**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.

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 Sue Reynnells at 674-3195.

**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, The Decatur Shelter and United Christian Services.* If you have any questions about any of these please contact Pastor Abbott at 657-3111.



**Scrabble**

***Pray and Play  
at the First  
Presbyterian Church  
is back!!***

Beginning on Sunday, October 3rd, 2010, you will be able to stay in Fellowship Hall until 2:00 (or until the last game is completed...) to play cards or board games with your friends. A light lunch will be provided. There will be board games as well as decks of cards. We are encouraging all bridge players, euchre players, chess players and board game players to attend. Rides home will be provided if needed. If you have any questions, or any game suggestions, please contact Pat Conner (657-2705) or Wendy Mickle (657-6738). There will be extra players to fill in at euchre and bridge tables. Hope to see you there!!



**Cribbage**

**Mud Puddles and Dandelions**

When I look at a patch of dandelions, I see weeds taking over my yard. My kids see flowers for Mom and blowing white fluff you can wish on.

When I feel wind in my face, I brace myself against it. I feel it messing up my hair and pulling me back when I walk.

My kids close their eyes, spread their arms and fly with it until they fall to the ground laughing.

When I see a mud puddle, I step around it. I see muddy shoes and dirty carpets. My kids sit in it. They see dams to build, rivers to cross and worms to play with.

I wonder if we are given kids to teach or to learn from. No wonder God loves the little children. Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things.



**October 24<sup>th</sup>**

Raking leaves, sweaters, cozy fires, gorgeous colors, the smell of leaves burning, crisp mornings, beautiful blue skies, vibrant burning bushes, migrating birds, warm socks, and comfort foods! Come and celebrate the Fall Season at the October Feast on October 24<sup>th</sup> when the Deacons will be serving many different kinds of soup, as well as bread, crackers and dessert.



Freewill offering with all proceeds going to our Angel Tree ministry. Angel Tree reaches out to children in Paw Paw whose parents are incarcerated.

*Come and join us and stay for games & cards!!*

**Worship  
Through  
Giving**



**As We Grow in Faith,  
Can We Grow in Giving?**

Our annual pledge drive begins in October. Please prayerfully consider your pledge to the church and its works for 2011. Our operating expenses continue to rise every year. Together we can provide for our financial needs as a faith community and still continue to reach out to help those in our larger community.



# Our Church Retreat



Hope to see everybody there next year!



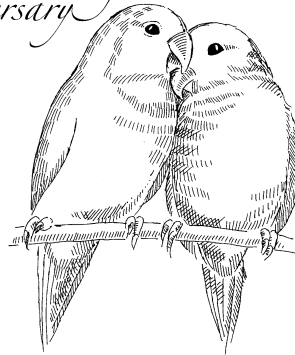
## October Birthdays

- 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 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

### Thanks

To all who helped prepare the June/July newsletter:  
 Johnell Cuddeback  
 Weintraub, Freida  
 Durringer, Pat Peters and  
 Judy Haefner.

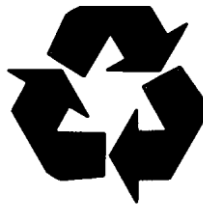
*Celebrating an Anniversary*



## October Anniversaries

- 10/04 Judy & Royal Haefner
- 10/04 Gene & Phyllis Gruizenga-Sahr
- 10/08 Chris & Kim Gaedeke
- 10/14 Robert & Kathy Vought
- 10/15 Barb & Greg Rhodes
- 10/17 Brenda & Scott Beck
- 10/24 Cheri & Chuck Duncan
- 10/24 Karen & Steven Racette
- 10/27 Shelly & Troy Imus

Celebrating their 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on October 9, Ken & Margo Anderson



**RECYCLE!!**  
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**RECYCLE!!**

In an effort to be more thoughtful about our stewardship of the earth and of all things, we are making available **recycling bins** all around the church for that purpose! One is located in the **Fellowship Hall** for all plastic cups, Styrofoam cups and plates.

Another bin will be located just **outside the sanctuary** for loose paper, old bulletins and that sort of stuff. And two are located in the **church office** and **pastor's study** for the same purpose.

Also there will be one in the **high school/middle school space** and one downstairs in the **children's learning area**. Please be alert and responsive

to our effort to decrease our waste!

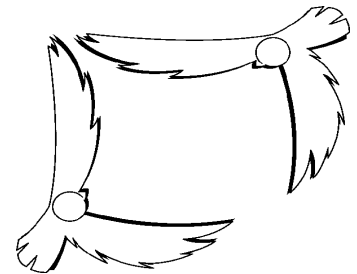
Thanks for your help! A full list of recyclables for our area follows.

**Paper:** newspaper, magazines, food boxes, copy paper, paper bags, catalogs, cardboard, junk mail

**Glass:** clear, green and brown jars & bottles

**Plastic:** plastic containers (1-7 symbol inside), Styrofoam

**Metal:** food cans, foil, pie tins, jar lids



### SHARENET

Sharenet will once again be meeting on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month and we are always looking for people to share our ministry to the congregation. Give us a try. We meet in the library at 10:30 (10:00 on second Tuesday).

As always we appreciate contributions of greeting cards that can be used in our contact ministry to the members and friends of our congregation. If you have cards to share, they can be placed in the Sharenet mailbox, dropped off at the office, or given to a member of Sharenet.

### Thought for the month

#### *The Golden Rule*

In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you. For this is the law of the prophets.

Matthew 7:12, Luke 6:31



# October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Communion 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 CE Classes 11:00 Worship Fellowship 12:30 Pray & Play	4 7:00 Paw Paw Community Chorus	5	6 8:00 TOPS  Noon Lunch with Friends  7:00 Boy Scouts	7 Noon Rotary Club Meeting  7:00 Choir Rehearsal	8  6:00 Wedding Rehearsal	9  4:00 Wedding
10 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 CE Classes 11:00 Worship Fellowship 12:30 Pray & Play 3:00 Wedding	11 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Paw Paw Community Chorus	12 10:30 Sharenet	13 8:00 TOPS  Noon Lunch with Friends 6:30 Potluck 7:00 Boy Scouts	14 Noon Rotary Club Meeting  7:00 Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 CE Classes 11:00 Worship <b>Congregational Meeting</b> Fellowship 12:30 Pray & Play	18 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Paw Paw Community Chorus	19 6:30 Commissions 7:30 Joint Worship 8:00 Deacons/Elders Meetings	20 8:00 TOPS  Noon Lunch with Friends  7:00 Boy Scouts	21 Noon Rotary Club Meeting  7:00 Choir Rehearsal	22	23 8:30 Men's Breakfast
24 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 CE Classes 11:00 Worship 12:15 October Feast	25 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Paw Paw Community Chorus	26 10:00 Sharenet  6:30 PW Tea and Style Show	27 8:00 TOPS 9:30 PW Bible Study 10:30 PW Meeting Noon Lunch with Friends 7:00 Boy Scouts	28 Noon Rotary Club Meeting  7:00 Choir Rehearsal	29 5:00 Elder & Deacons Retreat	30 Elder & Deacons Retreat
31 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 CE Classes 11:00 Worship Fellowship 12:30 Pray & Play						



Everyone who loves to sing is welcome to join us. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 7:30 and prior to 11:00 service each Sunday. Please come and lend us your voice.

## Fellowship

**Monthly Potluck:** October 13 at 6:30 p.m. is the day and time. Don't miss it and please bring a friend, or two, or three, some food to share and your own table service.

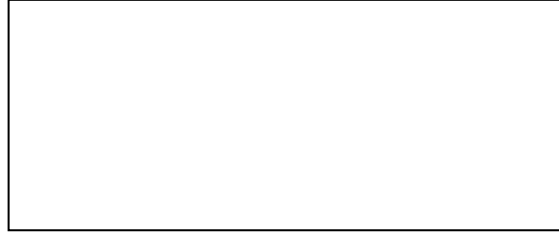
**Young Life Banquet:** Young Life is a non-denominational youth ministry helping us connect with the youth of our community. On October 26, 6:00 p.m., at the Vineyards on Red Arrow you are invited to come and learn more about Young Life. It is also a time for us as a congregation to support Young Life financially. Contact Deb Abbott at 657-3788 for more information.

First Presbyterian Church  
120 Pine St., Paw Paw, MI 49079

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### October Sermon Schedule

**October 3 – 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – World  
Communion/Peacemaking – Nelson Lumm?**

**October 10 – 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Scripture Reading: Psalm 1, Luke 6:46-49,  
Deuteronomy 27:1-10  
Sermon Title: “Building a Foundation for  
Stewardship”**

**Synopsis:** A belief system is built upon principles, just as a house is built on a foundation. As we all know a house without a strong foundation soon collapses. The same is true of a belief system. As we reflect on what we believe about stewardship, what are the principles behind our belief?

**October 17 – 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Scripture Reading: Luke 19:1-10, Mark 10: 46-52,  
John 8:1-11**

**Sermon Title: “Responding to Grace”  
Synopsis:** How have you experienced grace in your life? How has the gift of grace changed you? How have you responded to the grace you have received? How has the gift of grace become a foundational stone for your living?

**October 24 – 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Scripture Reading: Matthew 19:13-15, Matthew  
18:10-14, I John 4:7-21**

**Sermon Title: “Responding to Love”  
Synopsis:** How have you been loved in your life? How has the gift of love shaped you? How have you responded to the love you have received? How has the gift of love become a foundational stone for your living?

**October 31 – 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Scripture Reading: Luke 7:11-17, Luke 15:11-32,  
John 11:17-44**

**Sermon Title: “Responding to Salvation”  
Synopsis:** How have you experienced salvation in your life? How has the gift of salvation transformed you? How have you responded to the salvation you have received? How has the gift of salvation become a foundational stone for your living?

## Presbyterian Women's Fall



*Tea and Style Show  
Tuesday,  
October 26*

*6:30*

*Tickets \$7.00*

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

