



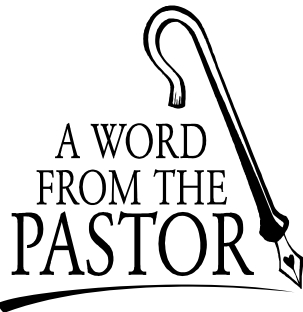
PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

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*“Rejoice in the Lord,
O you righteous.
Praise befits the
upright. Praise the
Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him
with the harp of ten
strings. Sing to him a
new song; play*

*skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. . . . Truly
the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on
those who hope in his steadfast love, to deliver
their soul from death, and to keep them alive in
famine. Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our
help and shield. Our heart is glad in him, because
we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love,
O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.”
Psalm 33:1-3, 18-22*

When is your life at its best?

Do you grow weary of doing good?

Those have been two questions that we have been reflecting on lately. What are your thoughts about those questions at this point?

Psalm 33 expresses the opposite experience of being weary of doing good. In Psalm 33, the Psalmist set out to express the passion and energy evident in the community of worship that he/she participated in. The Psalmist set out to paint a picture of vibrant faith in God. I would suggest that we join the Psalmist in attempting to describe vibrant faith, as well. What does that image suggest to you? What does a vibrant faith look like to you? Would you describe your faith as vibrant? Would you describe our faith as a community, as vibrant? How would you describe a vibrant faith? Who comes to mind for you when you think about a vibrant faith? What churches come to mind when you think about a vibrant faith?

In verse 19 the Psalmist asked God to keep the community alive in the midst of famine. I would like to suggest that the Psalmist may not be talking about a famine of physical food, but rather a famine of spiritual energy and passion. When we grow weary of doing good, or when we grow weary of the journey, or when we grow weary of drawing closer to God then perhaps we too are experiencing famine in our lives.

Eugene Peterson defines famine as the situation where a person or a people have lots of what they don't need, and little of what they do need. That describes American culture to a T. We perhaps live in the most famished culture on the planet; we have everything we don't need and little of what we do need.

If that is true then as a church we have a wonderful opportunity before us. As the Psalmist understood, a vibrant relationship with our Creator is what our hearts long for. The people of Paw Paw are starving for spiritual food. When visitors grace our doors they are hungry. They are searching for an alive, vibrant community of faith, where their hunger can be addressed. The question is, “Do we have a vibrant, passionate faith to share with them?” How would you describe your faith? Does it feel vibrant, alive, and passionate to you? How about as a congregation? When visitors come through our doors do they experience a vibrant, passionate people or do they find people like themselves famished?

These are not easy questions to grapple with, but they are essential to our health as a congregation. Let us be a people excited about this journey with and toward God, and let that excitement pour out through our worship, our fellowship, and our service. Let our hearts be glad in the Lord!

In Christ's Service – Pastor Abbott



Lights on the Steeple

Check it out. Our church steeple once again shines out into the community as a reminder of Gods' light in our world and the congregation's commitment to be a beacon to all of Paw Paw. The new lights were installed last week, complete with a man lift and our guys climbing on the roof and inside of the steeple. Monies for this project came from the Capital Fund.

The two lights are outdoor LED bulbs and fixtures that are quite new on the market. They are programmed by a sun switch that turns the fixtures on and off each day. Being LED bulbs they are guaranteed to last 3,500 hours, hopefully over 20 years of wear.

A Deep Shift is Emerging

By Dick Cushnie

(For those of you who are new to Paw Paw Presbyterian, Dick was our Interim Pastor before Tom came. He has occasionally preached here and has led some Christian education events for us. We welcome his article here and as a guest worship leader with Tom, on Sunday, September 12, 2010.)

Tom and I were having a conversation a month ago (Sounds like trouble to me!) about a fundamental shift that is taking place within the world Christian community. Now there is a difference between a *trend* and a *shift*, and this is most definitely a shift. Trends pop up, last for a while, and then fade. Shifts, however, begin decades (even centuries) before and slowly emerge, gaining recognition as ways we understand and appropriate the world in which we live. Eventually, someone gives them a name, and they enter our consciousness and become a part of our lives. The Industrial Age and The Age of Technology are examples of shifts that have re-aligned our ways of thinking and living.

Some *shifts*, however, are ongoing, and this is the kind of shift to which I am referring. These *shifts* float or dance over the landscape of our consciousness. They move back and forth like mirrored ways of thinking. These are the shifts that enable us to experience old things in new ways. They are both old and new; they were here at the beginning of all things, and they continue to *shift things around* so that we humans continually gain fresh perspectives.

The present shift in the Church is a move from education to formation. We in the church have done a fair job of Christian Education but a less than fair job in formation. What's the difference between education and formation? To put it too simply, education is the appropriation of knowledge, and formation is an experience. There is a difference between knowing about God and knowing God. One lodges information in the head; the other is a relationship that is lived.

In the Christian experience, education and formation are both important. Nonetheless, to teach children only knowledge about God is to run the risk that they can reject what we have taught them, but to help them have a relationship with God is to set them on a life-long journey with God as their companion, and that is more difficult to deny. The same is true of us adults! Who would doubt that Jesus had more than "head" knowledge of the Creator-God. No, Jesus lived with God at the center of his heart and God's heart.

Come to worship on Sunday, September 12 and experience a little of this emerging shift.

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? We will have a four week church membership class beginning Sunday, September 26. The class will either meet during the Sunday school hour or after the second service depending on the wishes of the participants. If you find yourself interested please give Pastor Tom a call at 657-3111.

Picture Directory: The Directory will arrive the first part of September. We will be passing them out after service.

Adult Small Groups

Monday Night Study: The Monday night study will be taking the month of September off, but will resume on October 11th.

Adult Sunday School Classes: The Adult Sunday morning Bible Study will start at 9:30 a.m. on September 26, the day our service returns to two worship services. We will be finishing the Gospel of Matthew and then starting the book of Acts. This is an informal study and all are welcome. If you have been looking for an opportunity to study the bible in depth this is a great opportunity. Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Library.

Women's Bible Study - We will be using the study book "Becoming a Woman of Grace". We meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Lounge every Wednesday evening (except the 2nd Wednesday when we have the potluck). We would invite all interest women of the church to attend. This study is led by Sue Reynells and Judy Haefner.

Attention Men: Men's breakfast will take place on Saturday, September 25th, 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: There will be one service at 10:00 a.m. on September 5 and 12. We will have one service at 11:00 a.m. at Van Buren Youth Camp on September 19. We will begin our two service schedule with services at 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on September 26.

Sacrament of Communion: We will celebrate communion on Sunday, September 19, out at the camp.

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: Please check with your chairperson for meeting times in September. Some commissions will meet on Tuesday, September 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Session & Deacon Meetings: Session and Deacon meetings will take place on Tuesday, September 21, at 8:00 p.m.

Monthly Potluck: September 8 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.

Youth Ministry

Young Life: Attention all high school people. Young Life will kick off on September 20. Check your Facebook for the latest news and information.

Children's Ministry



Thank You: A huge thank you to Cheri Duncan and all the other volunteers who made this year's VBS a huge success. Way to go! Thank you for all your energy, passion, creativity and enthusiasm.

Sunday School: We're starting The Covenant rotation model on September 26. The theme of the Covenant is woven throughout the scriptures. Starting with Noah and Abraham, we witness a special relationship between God and humankind. We still need one teacher for the first rotation and the Gathering Group begins at 9:30.

Mission Opportunities

Pantry Celebration: The pantry is celebrating its 1 year birthday on Tuesday, September 14, 5:00 p.m. at the pantry. Stop by the pantry at 221 Drew, to join in the fun.

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.

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 Pastor Abbott at 657-3111.

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.*

Food Booth Habitat for Humanity

The fair is over and what a week it was, some of the hottest weather ever and good crowds. Over \$5,000.00 was earned for the Habitat Program which hopes to begin a new home in the spring, details are not completed at this time.

For those who have never had a chance to participate, you are missing a lot of fun and great companionship. Over 24 of our members worked at the fair, cooking, taking orders, waiting on people, cleaning, taking money and running errands.

Special thanks go to two teams of bakers from the Presbyterian Women who again made pies for the booth, Dave Sipes who made all the pie crusts for the women, Sharon Desimone and her famous fair meatloaf, Rick Diemer who provided cherries and apples for the pies, Karen Christenson and her cool new menu signs, Bert Ogden & Dave Wilder for their work on a second exhaust fan for the Dining Area and running errands for us. An extra special thanks to the people who stepped in at the last moment to fill unexpected vacancies in the schedule.

Again this year our church was responsible for manning the booth on Tuesday as well breakfast and lunch on Wednesday, kids day. By popular request from the fair workers, we were asked to resume serving early breakfast, something that was dropped a few years ago. Thanks again to Joe Thorstenson & Sharon Desimone for getting up way before breakfast so everything would be ready to roll at 7:00 am on our days.

Should you want to mark your calendar for 2011, so as to not miss this great event, the fair is scheduled for the week of July 18. Plan your vacations accordingly.

September Birthdays

09/01 Craig* Hess
 09/01 Don* Vantzelfde
 09/01 Sheryl Walker
 09/02 Rachel Pursley
 09/03 Sharon* Desimone
 09/05 Jeff* Wells
 09/05 Daniel* Hulst
 09/06 Robert Vought
 09/06 Heather Smith-Johnson
 09/06 Susie* Deal
 09/07 Johnell* Cuddeback
 Weintraub
 09/07 Sarah Smith
 09/08 William* Kube
 09/08 William* Buhl
 09/08 Denise Seymoure
 09/09 Lauren Johnson
 09/09 Shelly* Imus
 09/10 Greg* Vantzelfde
 09/11 Kasmin Guthrie
 09/13 Wendy* Mickle
 09/14 Dick* Faul
 09/14 Alan* Lanphear
 09/15 Bennett Cooper
 09/17 Bert* Ogden
 09/17 Frances* Kubicek
 09/19 Harold* Schuitmaker
 09/19 Michael* Major
 09/20 Richard* Baker
 09/21 Christopher Kubicek
 09/21 Daniel McNeil
 09/22 David* Combs
 09/22 Jacob Weintraub
 09/23 Jack* Zabonick
 09/23 Elizabeth* Baney
 09/23 Jody Silber
 09/24 Andrew LaRue
 09/25 Joe* Thorstenson
 09/25 Greta* Taylor
 09/25 Elyse Burkett
 09/27 Morgan Baker
 09/27 Ethan Jahr
 09/28 Kathryn Renbarger
 09/28 Donna* Rook
 09/29 Chet VanDenBerg
 09/30 Ann Hague
 09/30 Alex Chambers Yeider

Thanks

To all who helped prepare the June/July newsletter: Johnell Cuddeback Weintraub, Freida Durringer, Marlene Tucker and Danna Dent.

September Anniversaries

09/01 Nichole & Rick Dunkerly
 09/03 Linda & Scott Walker
 09/08 Wendy Mickle & Joe Thorstenson
 09/11 Nancy & Rick Boven
 09/13 Nanna & Per Hagard
 09/19 Jacob & Johnelle Cuddeback Weintraub
 09/19 Clyde & Jane Maylath
 09/21 Clint & Elizabeth Baney
 09/22 John & Billiann Bonter
 09/30 Gordon & Judy Vliek

Deadline for the October newsletter is Thursday, September 23.

Thought for the month

Each one should use whatever gifts he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in it's various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

All Church Retreat Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 18-19 At Van Buren Youth Camp

Kickoff of the 2010-11 Church School Year, fellowship and fun!

Family and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw

- **Activities begin at 11:00 a.m. Please bring your own picnic lunch for your family on Saturday.**
- **Available activities include swimming, craft, hiking, games, meditation, group dynamics course and Vespers (led by Tom).**
- **Dinner will be served at 5:30. Hot dogs/brats and chips will be served.**
- **Sunday will begin with a continental breakfast with Sunday School beginning at 9:30 for all ages. Kids can wear their jammies!**
- **The worship service will begin at 11:00 am at the campfire bowl.**
- **After service there will be a pig roast/pot luck. Please bring a side dish or dessert to pass.**

Please bring a lawn chair for the campfire and a dish to pass for the fellowship luncheon on Sunday.

The camp website is www.vbyc.org if you would like to see what they have to offer!

September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends	2	3	4
5 9:00 Prayer Time 10:00 Worship Fellowship	6 Labor Day Office Closed	7	8 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends 6:30 Potluck	9 Noon Rotary Club Meeting 7:00 Choir Resumes	10	11
12 9:00 Prayer Time 10:00 Worship Fellowship	13	14 10:30 Sharenet	15 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends	16 Noon Rotary Club Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	17	18 Church Retreat Van Buren Youth Camp
19 Communion Service at Van Buren County Youth Camp	20	21 6:30 Commissions 7:30 Joint Worship 8:00 Session/ Deacons Meetings	22 8:00 TOPS 9:30 PW Bible Study 10:30 PW Meeting 12:00 Lunch with Friends	23 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting No Choir	24	25 8:00 Men's Breakfast
26 7:00 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	27	28 10:00 Sharenet	29 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends	30 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal		

Update from the June Parade of Homes

Many thanks to those who volunteered to help with the Parade of Homes in June. Once again we were asked to host a remolded home, a three day commitment instead of the entire Parade which runs for nine days. The home we were sitting was completed by Penning Builders. Many positive comments were made by visitors as well as those who were working the event. The efforts of our group has netted \$150.00, and the Presbyterian Women, who are the arrangers for this event, have voted to use this money for Mission Work for the church. Thanks again, hopefully we will again be able to participate next year. Should anyone be interested in taking part, it usually is a three hour commitment with required guidelines set up by the Greater Kalamazoo Home Builders Association. We would welcome new names to place on our worker list.

Monthly Potluck

Second Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Please bring a dish to pass, table service and an appetite. This is a great time of fellowship to share with your church family.

Choir Practice Resumes

Thursday, Sept. 9 at 7:00 p.m.

New members who love to sing are encouraged. We need your voices and it is a great opportunity to get together with church friends.

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

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September Sermon Schedule

September 5 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Hymn Sing

September 12 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Dick
Cushnie preaching

September 19 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Church
Retreat

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:5, Psalm 19, Psalm 33
Sermon Title: “Let Creation Speak”

Synopsis: Do you believe there is a God? Why? How do you know? God’s very creation is one of the primary ways we know God exists and loves us. As we worship in God’s beautiful creation let it energize us for our call in pointing the world to our Creator.

September 26 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – The
Mission Commission

Introducing Our Interim Music Director

Pat McKinney will be filling in as Interim Music Director. She has received degrees from Michigan State University and VanderCook College of Music with an emphasis on choral school music. In addition, she has done graduate work at Central Michigan, Western Michigan and Illinois State. She taught choral music for public schools in Byron Center, Watervliet, Coloma and Princeville, Illinois.

Her church work has included directing handbell and chime choirs at Coloma and Princeville United Methodist Churches. In addition, she was the director of children’s choirs at Arcadia Ave. Presbyterian Church in Peoria, and has sung or rung handbells in numerous choirs.

She retired from Watervliet Public Schools in June, 2006 and is currently teaching music one day a week at St. Mary’s in Paw Paw. She is the stock manager for Eleanor’s Pantry.

Her husband Bill is a freight agent for Mercer Transportation. Their daughter Liz is currently enrolled at Central Michigan in the physician’s assistant program. Pat and Bill live on Christie Lake near Lawrence with their loveable but useless cats.

Have you always wanted to ring? Ecumenical Handbell Choir Forming

The Paw Paw United Methodist Church is sponsoring an ecumenical handbell program and would like to invite your congregation to participate. Anyone in third grade or older interested in ringing is welcome. You do not have to have prior ringing experience. Disciple Bells is our beginning choir and meets at 4pm. Members range in age from third grade to adult, and have no music reading skills.

Wesley Ringers is our intermediate choir ranging in age from middle school to adult. Ringers in this group have some knowledge of music and prior ringing experience. Older youth or adults with no ringing experience but have music reading skills are also welcome to participate. Rehearsals are at 5pm.

Jubellation is our more advanced choir ranging in age from high school through adult. Members of this choir have previous ringing experience and the ability read music. Adults or older youth with strong music skills that want to learn how to ring are also welcome to join us. Rehearsals are at 6:15pm.

All choirs meet on Wednesdays and will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, at the Paw Paw United Methodist Church bell room. If you are interested in ringing or have questions, feel free to contact me. I’m looking forward to creating music and worshipping together!

Sincerely,
Christine M. Mortimer,
PPUMC bell director
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