



PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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JANUARY 2011



Epiphany

OUR MISSION

TO BE THE
LOVING
COMMUNITY OF
JESUS CHRIST
THAT WILL

WIN

NEW FOLLOWERS
OF CHRIST TO
SAVING FAITH

GROW

ALL FOLLOWERS
TO DEEPER FAITH

GO

INTO THE
WORLD AND
DEMONSTRATE
FAITH

From the Pastor's Desk: Beginnings in January 2011

Dear friends,

If you've been to any funeral or memorial services I've conducted, you know how often I use Psalm 23 to comfort and encourage people. Also called "*The Shepherd's Psalm*", this rich biblical text speaks powerfully and reassuringly to us about how our loving God is always, always with us. In every season of life he is there providing for us in ways we can come to understand more fully and giving us peace that he's working everything out.

As we move into the seasons of life God has for us in 2011, I will be begin preaching from Psalm 23 on January 9. Some of my preaching direction will come from Phillip Keller's book, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*. Many may remember our focus in Lent 2008 when Sunday sermons and weekly small groups used Keller's well-known book, *Lessons from A Sheep Dog*. At that time I spoke with many of you who mentioned that you'd like to also use his book on Psalm 23. His deep yet practical insights into everyday life with the LORD will help to make the Shepherd's Psalm more meaningful to us all. I look forward to growing together in our trust of God who shepherds us in every circumstance and season of life.

(continued on pg. 3)

Your First Presbyterian Church Family believes in the power of prayer. (See Romans 1:9b). You are hereby given the name of someone we ask you to pray for until you receive your next Presby Press.

You are encouraged to contact that person with a card, note, phone call or personal visit so they know you are praying for them this month. Be assured that your name is being given to another to also pray for you this month.

May God's richest blessings be with you always!

Yours in Christ, Discipleship Committee

Please clip this reminder & post it to remind you to pray for:

Session News

December

Session held its regular monthly meeting on December 21, 2010.

We spent the first part of the meeting saying goodbye to the Elders that are departing Session. These Elders are Jim Keely, Dick Sellers, Jackie Bean and Dave Farrell. We let them know how much we appreciated their service and leadership while serving on Session.

The Administration Committee motioned that the Christmas Eve Joy Offering should be given to the Deacons this year. The motion was passed by Session vote.

The Worship Committee made a motion that we have only one Sunday Worship service starting at 10:00 A.M., beginning Sunday January, 9, 2011 and continuing for the foreseeable future. Much discussion followed, but finally we voted on the motion. The motion passed by Session vote.

Jim Keely made a motion that Fellowship and Sunday School be held at 9:00 A.M. Dave Farrell seconded the motion. The motion passed by Session vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Burris
Clerk



Are you looking to do something for the community beyond Christmas and into the new year?

If you have any gently used clothing that you want to give away, the students of the confirmation class invite you to donate those items for the Salvation Army. We will be collecting items through January. Please place them downstairs on the dark grey couch in the "Youth Room". We will deliver all your contributions to the Salvation Army in February. Thank you for helping us help others in need here in Ottawa!

Pastor

John W. Walker
jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org

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Dianne Jamison
fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org

Treasurer

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Organist

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Accompanist

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Note:

*All articles for publication
are due at 9AM on the fourth
Monday of the month.*

***Our Elders are
committed
to serving.***

Nathalie Schmidt

(Worship)
433-0175

Lori Trolinger

(Discipleship)
795-6791

Mark Turek

(Trustee)
431-0093

Steve Burris

(Trustee)
481-9830

Cindy Arjes

(Mission)
915-1159

Mary Lou Smith

(Discipleship)
795-5925

Steve Burris

(Clerk of Session/Trustee)
481-9830

Jim Keely

(Administration & Personnel)
433-0868

Bruce Smith

(Deacon)
795-5925

Dave Farrell

(Worship)
252-2351

Dick Sellars

(Trustee)
434-7633

Jackie Bean

(Fellowship & Outreach)
434-3380

Diane Farrell

(Fellowship & Outreach)
434-2774

Dan Mestelle

(Administration)
434-2318)

(Continued from pg. 1)

If you or your small group would like to get Keller's book so you can follow along more closely, please pick up a copy at The Book Mouse, or order it online at Amazon.com or Christianbooks.com. For those that can use them, I will provide weekly small group questions based upon each Sunday sermon. You'll find them each Sunday in the main office.

Another important "beginning" for the new year will be the change in our Sunday morning worship, education and fellowship schedule. For many months we have been worshipping together in one service on the first Sunday of each month. And we have worshipped together at one service each week during the last two summers. Many have commented on how much they enjoy the one service when we are all able to worship the LORD together. During this past month of Advent and Christmas we did so every Sunday. There's a qualitative fullness of fellowship, sound and spirit in the sanctuary, and it is joyful! That's why at its December 21 meeting, session made the decision to move our worship hour to one consistent time: 10:00 a.m. For any who are wondering, this service will continue to look and sound like it has whenever we have been together for one service. We will continue to have the reading and preaching of God's word, liturgy, children's sermons, the adult choir and music team, and all that has been important in our Spirit-led worship at First Presbyterian.

Our education and fellowship schedule will necessarily be impacted. For now, session has decided that both education and fellowship will begin at 9:00 a.m. (one hour before worship) and end at 9:45 a.m., allowing adequate time for individuals and families to make it to worship. We recognize that the 9:00 a.m. hour may initially be a challenge, since it moves both of those ministry times forward by one hour and fifteen minutes. But our hope is that the consistent, unchanging starting time each week will actually lend strength to those ministries over time.

The elders and I know that with any changes there can be a time of adjustment and getting adapted to what is new. We all welcome any thoughtful feedback you might like to share with us over these next few months as we move through these changes and "try them on". We are so thankful for the many who serve the LORD and his church so faithfully in so many ways each week in ZONE, education, Children's Church, Fellowship & Outreach, the nursery and worship leadership. The many faithful volunteers tell of a vibrant life of Christ's Spirit in our life and ministry together.

God's blessings upon you all in the New Year!
Pastor John Walker



Scott Alonge will have a *CaringBridge* website for us to follow his progress and show our support. Here are two easy ways to visit the site:
1. Go to <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/scottalonge> or
2. Enter his website name, scottalonge, at www.CaringBridge.org.

BARRY'S BLESSINGS

January begins the New Year. Why not reflect a few moments to dream about the year ahead. We all want the next year to be a better one for our family, friends and church family. And, always remember to include God, who without him, our dreams can never be fulfilled.

We All Need A Dream
By Lois Pinkerton Fritz

We all need a dream for tomorrow,
A goal to strive to attain,
A dream for a better tomorrow
Where love might truly reign.
For God puts us here for a purpose,
Let us not stand idly by,
But fasten our dream to a rainbow
And for its fulfillment strive.

Dreams are like stars in the heavens
Which seem, oh, so far away,
Yet, let not these dreams elude us
But keep them alive each day.
We all need a dream to master,
A dream to gladden the heart,
A dream that will help make better
God's world ___ of which we're a part!

"That ye might walk worthy of the LORD unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing the knowledge of God."—Col. 1:10

Happy & Healthy New Year—God Bless!
Shalom,
Barry Cohen

- Remember there is nothing too big (or too small) to take to the Lord.
- Get your exercise today! Walk with the Lord.
- God is everywhere—even at your wits end.
- God adores the sound of your voice—talk to him often.
- The "Top Ten List" is not a modern invention.

Contemplating the Hereafter...

The pastor came to visit one of his parishioners, a woman in her 90's and a shut-in. When the pastor inquired about her readiness for eternal life, the woman replied: "Yes, Pastor, I think about the hereafter all the time. I decide I want something from the kitchen, and by the time I get up from the chair, grab my cane, and make my way into the kitchen, I stand there wondering what in the world I'm here after."

WIN, GROW, GO: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

PADS Shelter

Volunteers are always needed but there are also supply needs that we can help with:			
powdered drink mix	travel size:	toilet bowl cleaner	gift certificates from:
coffee & creamer	soap	garbage bags (39 gal)	Wendy's
dry cereal	shampoo	laundry detergent	McDonalds
coffee cups	conditioner	vinegar	Wal-Mart
paper plates	solid deodorant	bleach	Burger King
napkins	toothpaste	dryer sheets	Handi Food
toilet paper	combs	conditioner	Kroger
paper towels	brushes	assorted socks & underwear	

Prayer Shawls: Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is still going strong.

Do you know someone who could use a hug from God (who doesn't)? Please call us so that we may provide a Prayer Shawl for you to give that "someone" who needs God's hug.

Jackie Bean 434-3380 Karen Cohen 433-4308

Why not join a small group? At FPC small groups are important. Why? Because few experiences encourage and build our faith more than small groups. Small groups teach us how to better know, understand and apply God's word in daily life. They also become a place of good friendship and caring. Want to join a small group? It's easy! Just talk to Pastor John or one of the small group leaders listed below:

Lloyd & Diane Chapman (Sun. AM): 433-0368
 Mike & Diane Farrell (Sun. PM): 434-2774
 Chris Yepsen (1st Sun. PM monthly): 488-0279
 Betsy Feagans (Mon. PM): 433-5480
 Carol Engberg/Women (Mon. PM): 434-0653
 Jan & Linda Lindeman (Wed. PM): 431-9904

John Walker/Men (Thurs. AM): 434-1045
 Helen Tammen (Thurs. AM): 434-3860
 Lisa Mestelle/Women-Beth Moore Bible Study
 (Thurs. PM): 434-2318
 Jim Keely/Men (Sat. AM): 433-0868

Handy Food Receipts

Please save your receipts and bring them to church. We can earn 1% of the receipts totals for our church! Boxes will be in Scott Hall and on the table by the church offices.



Take the time to check out our growing website!!

Just go to www.ottawafirstpres.org and enjoy this work in progress!

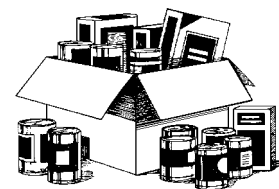
If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact your Fellowship & Outreach elders, Diane Farrell and Cathy Peters.

They'd be glad to hear from you.

WIN, GROW, GO: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE cont.

Ottawa Community Food Basket:

Donations for the Food Basket for the month of January will be **pastas**. Let's fill the barrels at the entrances to our sanctuary and see if we can do even more to share our gifts with the less fortunate in our community. Monetary donations may also be given; just be sure to designate that it is for the Food Basket.



PADS Shelter

Have you ever had to sleep out in the cold, harsh weather? Ottawa is blessed to have the PADS shelter to help people who have no place to sleep at night in the cold weather! But they need volunteers!!

First Presbyterian Church volunteers on the second Saturday evening of each month from October 1 to the end of April. That amounts to only 7 nights! (Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, Mar. 12, Apr. 9) We need people from our church family to volunteer to give 4 or 5 hours of their time, **once** or more to help. The times are **7:00 p.m. to 11 p.m., 11 p.m. to 4 a.m., and 4 a.m. to 9 a.m.** We would need only 36 people over the 7 month time. You would be there once for 4 or 5 hrs. and be done! **Beginning this year there will also be a 2 hr. shift for volunteers: 5-7 p.m.** Please let Dianne know right away if you can help. Over the last couple years it has come to be only a handful of people who volunteer and they have been willing to do it each month. Please help us to keep this mission going! **(Pleas note new shift times.)**



Volunteer, just once!!!

Contact Dianne Jamison (433-1045).

Helping Hands

The Mission Committee is looking for people who need help getting chores done around their homes. This could be something like shoveling snow, washing windows, yard clean up, or other things that need to be done but you need help with. We're also looking for people who would like to help with these chores. If you are interested in help, or helping, please contact Cindy Arjes at 915-1159 or call the church office at 433-1045.



To all our friends at 1st Pres,
 We want to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, visits and meals or
 deserts. We're so thankful to all of you. Mostly for your prayers; it meant
 so much.

God is so good! I'm doing much better but still on the mend.

Continue to pray.

We love you all.

Thank you,

Marion Gaspar



Dear FPC family,

The 2010 Guatemala mission team would like to thank you all for the generous prayers and donations that you gave us from the very beginning of our plans, until we made it back home, even through a missed flight in Houston that made us a day late returning! We had an amazing trip and were able to finish every project that we had planned. The village of San Pedro was very welcoming and appreciative and showed us nothing but kindness. Craig & Peggy plus our new friend, Moya, were great help in all that we did. With your support and prayers, we felt safe in an area that has seen it's share of violence lately. We knew that we were covered in prayer and God was with us every step of the way.

Thank you, thank you!!

Dianne Jamison, Betsy Feagans, Larry & Patti Good, Fred Bryson, Joe & Cheryl Wytovicz

**Kum
 Join Us
 Mitten Tree:**

This year's tree was beautifully decorated with

133 items!!

80 pairs of gloves

35 hats

10 glove & hat sets

1 pair of socks

6 scarves

1 pair of ear muffs



**Saturday Morning Men's Prayer
 Group Meetings:**

Jim Keely, leader

Saturday, **Jan. 8** at 6:30 a.m. is breakfast at First Presbyterian Church to celebrate the New Year and to take down the paintings at 8:00 a.m. in Washington Park.

Please keep all of these gatherings in your prayers and continue to pray for the renewal and revival of our community. Meditate on Psalm 51 as we enter the autumn season.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Keely (433-0868).

Ladies Nite Out

Tuesday, January 4, 6:00 p.m., at
Anne's Hide-A-Way

Please contact Carol Zimmerman (434-6693)
for info & reservations.

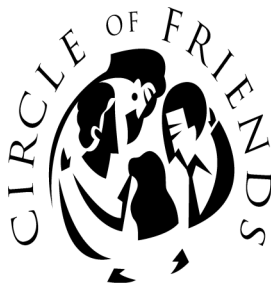
All women are invited for the fun!!
Bring an extra \$1 and maybe win a free meal!

KUM JOIN US

Sunday, January 2
12:30 p.m.
at the hospital cafeteria.
Everyone is welcome!

We are taking a break.

Watch the newsletter
for when we
will join together
again!



**Address
Change**

Carol Engberg
954 Pleasant View Lane
Ottawa IL 61350



FOOD & FELLOWSHIP



JANUARY

Colin Voigt, Joe Shea	1
Dawn Blankenship	2
Jodi Mestelle, Keith Stevenson	5
Michael Hess	6
Dick Sellars	7
Karen Felty	9
Betty Ehret	12
Dawn Hess	13
Jim Davey	16
Kevin Lindeman	20
Cathy Peters	21
Lois Nawrocki	22
Kerry Alonge	23
Earl Gerding, Nathalie Schmidt	26
Debbie Walker, Andrew Felty, Dana Snook	27
Steve Bybee	29
Winona Bartlett	31

FEBRUARY

Deagan Voigt	2
Cheryl Sellars	5
Carly Stohr	8
Kayla Zeilmann, Craig Couch	9
Vina Rowe, Nathan Hess, Michael Willis	10
Dan Brockman	11
Idalia Stricklin, Jim Thompson	13
Noah Trolinger, Barb White,	14
John Damron	15
LuAnn Atwood	18
Erin Stuedemann, Ken Nona	19
Cris Bormet	20
Tiffini Dial	24
Susan Hayward	25
Sue Brockman	27
Bill Gaspar, Dianne Jamison	28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Sunday 8:30 am Prayer 9:00 am ZONE 9:00 am Education 9:00 am Fellowship 10:00 am ONE Service			Every Wed. 9 am Prayer library 6:30 pm RIOT 7:00 pm Choir Practice	Every Thurs. 6:15 am Men's Small Group 9:30 am Seniors Small Group		
						1 Happy New Year!
2 10 am ONE Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship 12:30 pm Kum Join Us	3	4 6:00 pm Ladies Nite Out	5 7 on Choir Practice	6	7	8 6:30 am Men's Community Prayer Breakfast at: FPC 8 am Take down paintings in Washington Park 7 pm Volunteers at PADS Shelter
9 NEW Schedule Every Sunday! 8:30 am Prayer 9:00 am ZONE 9:00 am Education 9:00 am Fellowship 10:00 am ONE Service	10	11 6 pm Cub Scout Committee Mtg. 7 pm Session Committee Mtgs	12 7 pm Choir Practice	13 Angel Food Orders Due	14	15
16 4:30 pm New Elder Training	17	18 7 pm Session	19 7 pm Choir Practice	20	21	22 10:30 to 11 am Angel Food Distribution
23 4:30 pm New Elder Training	24 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	25	26 7 p.m. Choir Practice	27	28	29
30 4:30 pm New Elder Training	31					



First Presbyterian Church
114 East Jefferson Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

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Return Service Requested

**We have a NEW Sunday Morning Schedule for 2011!
Just ONE Worship Service Each Week at 10:00 a.m.**

- **8:30 a.m. Prayer for worship**
- **9:00 a.m. ZONE and Education Hour**
- **9:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship Hour**
- **10:00 a.m. Worship Service**

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