

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Return Service Requested



November 1 - 30, 2009

Volume 11

Pastor's Reflections

An imminent theologian of the 20th century said the greatest question for the church is, "Where is the church in the world?" In other words, where are God's people engaged—demonstrating Christ's love, peace and justice—in the community and world?

I think for First Presbyterian Church, Fargo that may be one of our great questions. Where are we as individuals and a church living out Christ's way of life?

Recently a question was asked to Pastor Mary, "What changes will 'going missional' bring to our church?"

One of the changes it is bringing about is how pastoral and lay staff lead. Last month, I mentioned three shifts that need to occur in how leaders will lead. This month, I would like to continue the conversation.

Leaders in the external-focused/missional church are **moving from being the historians to being journalists**. Reggie McNeal in *Missional Renaissance* tells the following:

"Missional leaders experience what God is doing and then tell others about it. In this way, they act as journalists to help us experience it, too. This means they spend time with God in prayer, asking him to show them what he is doing. This usually crafts a very different agenda for them than just doing what clamors for attention in their inbox. And it means they immerse themselves in life. They journey out of the citadel into the streets. Missional leaders, in touch with God and with the world, speak convincingly of what the people of God must do."

Historians talk about yesterday, about keeping the past alive. Journalists talk about what God is doing now.

Externally-focused church leaders are also shifting from positional to personal. Reggie McNeal says,

"In the old world, leadership could rely mostly on positional authority. Hierarchical models of organizational life promoted this.

(Continued inside...)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Fargo, North Dakota

Upcoming Events:

November 1
**New Member Class
Vikings/Packers
Tailgate Party**

November 8
Kirkin O' the Tartans

November 9
Man Up

November 15
Potluck

November 22
**Holiday Decorating
FMSO Concert**

November 26
Thanksgiving

November 27
Church Closed

December 6
**Poinsettia Order
Deadline**

THE MESSENGER

A Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fargo, North Dakota ~ www.firstpresfargo.org

All Saints Sunday: Service of Remembrance

Join us on **Sunday, November 1st** at 9:00 and 10:45am as we celebrate the lives of those in our church who have died in the past year.

Kirkin' O' the Tartans

November 8th at 9:00 and 10:45am will feature the blessing of the Scottish tartans at a festival worship service. This year our focus will be expressions of Celtic spirituality. Bagpipers, dancers, orchestra and choirs make this day truly celebratory. (Both services will be identical and one hour in length.)

Join us in Celebration Hall between services for a performance by the Highland Dancers. The Schmitz family children belong to the Minnesota Scottish Celtic Dance Association and live in St. Paul with their parents Paul and Lucy. They travel around the United States, Canada and Scotland competing and performing. We welcome them back to Fargo and to our congregation.

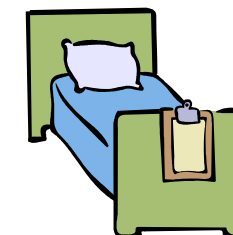


New Member Class Sunday, November 1st

Are you a guest at First Presbyterian Church? Do you sense God leading you to become a member of this community of faith?

Beginning at 9:50am in the Jennie Roberts Room, we will explore the history of the Presbyterian Church. There will be a break for worship at 10:40am, and after worship the group will reconvene at 11:50am with lunch. Other topics to be explored are "Expectations of Members," and "What is a Missional Church?" The class will provide opportunities to hear from church staff and ask questions about various ministries.

The class will conclude by 2:00pm. Childcare is available upon request by calling the church office.



Pastoral visits in the hospital

Due to recent flu outbreaks, Pastors Shive and Holtey will not be visiting routinely in the hospitals. If you or a family member is in the hospital, please call the church office and speak with one of the pastors. We will respond as advised by the medical community.

Stewardship 2010

If you have not returned your Estimate of Giving card yet, you are encouraged to do so today. Your financial commitments help the Session plan for the coming year.

If you have not pledged in the past, you are invited to take a first step. Everyone is asked to take a step up and give a half or one percent more of your income to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

Wednesday Evening Adult Study: *Ecclesiastes*

6:00pm in Rooms 2 & 3

You are invited to the search for wisdom (skill for living) in a study of this unique Old Testament book!

Sunday Morning Adult Study

November 15, 9:50 a.m. Two new classes begin!

Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes is a book by Middle Eastern scholar, Kenneth Bailey, who will help us lift away the obscuring layers of modern Western interpretation to reveal Jesus in the light of the cultural and historical situation of the 1st Century. In November we will look at The Beatitudes and during Advent, the birth narratives of Jesus.

We celebrate the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth with a class on the book, *John Calvin: Reformer for the 21st Century*. We will explore the life and teachings of the father of Presbyterianism and discover its significance for today. Topics will include: "Calvin's vision of God," "Reformed and always reforming," and "Grace alone, Christ alone, faith alone," and more.

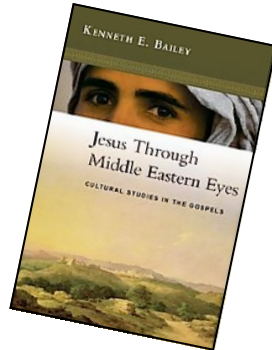
First chapters of each book may be picked up at the Welcome Center. Books will be distributed at the classes. Suggested donation for each book is \$10.

Gathering of Elders

All elders, those presently serving and those who previously served, are invited to a dessert and coffee in Celebration Hall Thursday, November 12th. Rev. Dr. Steve Minnema, Interim Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains, will be speaking briefly on "Challenges Facing the Presbytery and the Church Today."

There will be a time for participants to ask questions about the church, its ministry and direction for the future. The Gathering of Elders has no power to make decisions, set policy, vote, or endorse anything.

Please RSVP to the church office by Sunday, November 8th or sign up on the Volunteer Opportunities bulletin board in the foyer.



Automatic Contribution Deposits & Per Capita Contribution

Do you want to set up your contribution to be made automatically from your bank account? It is convenient and saves money for the church. Forms are available in the gathering space and also in the office. If you have questions, please contact Mary Wittenberg, Business Manager.

It's not too late to contribute toward the per capita assessment First Presbyterian pays annually. The church is assessed \$41.95 for each confirmed member. These contributions are included on your contribution statements.

For the Record in October

Weddings: *Abigail Barber and James Burgum* were married in the Sanctuary October 10th.

New Members: *Troy Schmidt and Lezlie Nichols* were welcomed as new church members October 11.

Baptisms: *Hazel Marley Schmidt*, and her father *Troy Schmidt* were baptized in the Sanctuary October 11

September Financial Summary

	YTD 2009 Actual	YTD 2009 Budget
Income	\$517,014	\$552,258
Expenses	\$538,155	\$586,648
Net income (loss)	(\$21,141)	(\$ 34,390)

Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Shive	Pastor/Head of Staff
The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey	Associate Pastor for Congregational Nurture
The Rev. Dr. Steve Kisslinger	Parish Associate
The Rev. Emery Roy	Pastor Emeritus
Penny Andrist	Co-Coordinator of Children's Ministry
Gail Benson	Co-Coordinator of Children's Ministry
Mary Beth Berg	Assistant Director of Music/Organist
Ansley Cameron	Youth Director/UCM Downtown Coordinator
Laura Caroon	Communications Specialist
Dr. David Fandrich	Director of Music
Rick Fiebiger	Facility Manager
Julie Jensen	Part-time Custodian
Rene Mynatt	Part-time Custodian
Diana Peterson	Receptionist
John Smith	Part-time Custodian
Bonnie Stam	Nursery Staff
Mary Wittenberg	Business Manager

Office Hours

Mon-Thu 8:30am-5pm
Fri 9am-1pm

Deadlines

Deadline for December Messenger article submission is Wednesday, November 18. Please e-mail articles to Laura Caroon: lcaroon@firstpresfargo.org

The Session

Eric Johnson & Marty Hoag, Personnel; **Candy Cox**, Fellowship & Events; **David Stastny**, Building & Grounds; **Mary Staahl & Jocie Iszler**, Management & Finance; **Greg Post & Vicki Laraway**, Worship; **Ray Bauske, Alexa Mazaheri** (youth) & **Shila Tobosa**, Spiritual Nurture & Education; **Jim Johnson & David Johnson**, Support & Endowment; **Mike Lochow**, Communications; **Mary Simle & Bruce Maylath**, Mission

Board of Deacons

Marion Anderson, Penny Andrist, Chad Backes, Dick Blaine, Sue Cacioppo, Anne Durbin, Kate Frappier, Nan Froelich, Patricia Gilbertson, Krista Johnson, Barb Kessel, Christine Kloubec, Jeff Olson, Kendrick Pifer (youth), **Georgia Resell, Joe Stanley, Phyllis Sunderland, Paula Thomas, Brad Zietz**

Gracia Fulwiler, Health Ministries Coordinator



A relaxed atmosphere.
Great music.
Interesting video/media components.
New ways to experience God's presence.

Wednesdays 6:45-7:30pm.

Invite a friend to join you.

See us on Facebook!

Pastor's Reflections Continued...

But today, leadership is increasingly personal. The person occupying the role is evaluated in terms of suitability for being followed...

Are we living what we're talking about? Are our own lives missional? Is there a spiritual attractiveness to us? Are we frequently caught saying yes to Jesus? If we do say yes to Jesus, we help others in our constellations of influence make the same choice."

Becoming an external-focused/missional church involves other practical changes, some of which I will write about next month.

I close with these thoughts:

1. It is an exciting time to be the pastor of this church! You are great people!
2. God is at work—bringing God's way of life—in our world and God is at work turning our attention and focusing our hearts and lives on the brokenness and hurts of our world.

Peace,

Steve

Attn: Families of College Students!

We are asking for help getting the new addresses of our First Presbyterian youth who are now off in college. We would like to contact them and let them know their church family is thinking of them. Please email your student's name and address to AnsleyCameron@gmail.com or send them to the church office, attention Ansley Cameron. Thanks!

Church Directories

Updated church directories will be available in early November. They may be picked up in the gathering space or the church office. If you would like one mailed or emailed to you, please call Diana in the church office or email her at dpeterson@firstpresfargo.org

Thanksgiving Eve: Wednesday, November 25

There will be **no Wednesday at First** ministries on Thanksgiving Eve. This includes dinner, ensembles, education, and Soul Space worship. The focus that evening will be preparation for the annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

YOUTH @ First

November 6th: Mark Schultz and Point of Grace bring their 'Come Alive Tour' to Bethel Church. It is going to be an awesome concert. Through First Presbyterian Church, we ask each person pay \$10.00 to go. So we can reserve a ticket for you, please RSVP by Nov. 3rd. We will meet at Bethel Church at 6:40pm for the 7:00pm concert; 2702 30th Avenue South, Fargo.

November 11th: NO YOUTH GROUP

November 25th: NO YOUTH GROUP

December 5th: In preparation for our annual *Cookie Walk* we will be baking cookies in the afternoon of Dec. 5th. The Youth and volunteers are asked to come and help frost and sprinkle cookies to ensure we have a plenty of beautiful cookies of our annual *Cookie Walk*. Please let Ansley Cameron know if you are able to help.

December 6th: Attention All Bakers and Cookie Lovers! The annual Christmas Cookie Walk is approaching. The Middle School and Senior High Youth need your help! The Youth are selling cookies. The *Christmas Cookie Walk* is the Youth's biggest fundraiser! All of the earning will help to fund the cost of the trips that we take. What better way to get into the Christmas Spirit than to bake cookies together. We are asking for you to help by baking a dozen cookies. On December 6th, the youth will sell all the beautiful tasty treats. We need lots of cookies because we sell out every year! If your heart is interested in helping, please contact Ansley Cameron, the Director of Youth Ministry. With your help, we all can have warm hearts and happy tummies this Christmas Season.

Check out the youth blog for the latest info:

<http://youthatfirstpres.blogspot.com>

Order Your Poinsettias!

Contributions toward beautifying the Sanctuary and Celebration Hall for the Christmas season will be gratefully received in the church office. Please complete the section below and return it (along with your payment) to Diana in the church office on or before December 6. **Please include a payment with the order form.**

Name: _____

Please choose one of the following:

1. In loving memory of: _____
2. In honor of: _____
3. To the Glory of God.

I would like to purchase: # _____ 4" poinsettia(s) for \$5.50 each # _____ 6" poinsettia(s) for \$8.50 each

Vikings/Packers Tailgate Party

Are you ready for some Football?!?!?! Bring the family, wear your team colors, and come to watch the Vikings-Packers football game in Celebration Hall on the big screen at **3:00pm on Sunday, November 1st**. Whether you really like football or not, you will enjoy this afternoon of fellowship and friendly rivalry with other families of our church. Tailgate fare will be served throughout the game with a chili and brat feed at halftime.

Nurse's Notes - Here it comes again!

Gracia Fulwiler, RN, Parish Nurse

The media have made us all quite aware that we have a new flu coming. It is a new and very different influenza virus that is spreading worldwide among people. For this reason it may cause a lot more people to get ill from the flu besides the seasonal variety. So everyone is asking, "What can I do about this?"

The best way to fight any illness is awareness. It is important for people to do preventative measures, be aware of the symptoms and what to do when the symptoms arrive. The first step is to get the shot, even the wimps need to get one. This means both the seasonal and the H1N1. This does not ensure absolute coverage but the chance of getting any kind of flu is greatly reduced. The next step is daily vigilance of simple cleanliness habits. This means covering that cough or sneeze in the crook of your elbow if no Kleenex is available. And, above all, wash those pesky little hands ALL THE TIME. A sanitizer is very effective as an alternative so carry it with you, have it at your desk, offer it to a neighbor if you notice they didn't "do the right thing."



Remember that the flu is an upper respiratory infection. The main symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, chills, fatigue, and headache. The worst is usually done in about 72 hours so if it doesn't get any better after that, go see a doctor. Sometimes the virus will cause a lot of irritation to the stomach because of the stuff we swallow during a normal cold/flu. This may show up as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. This is gastritis and can cause other problems such as dehydration on top of what the virus can do.

Above all, we all need to observe the daily health needs of our individual bodies. We need to get the appropriate amount of sleep; fatigue makes our bodies more susceptible to illness. We need to drink plenty of fluids all the time; this helps wash some of those viruses out before they can take a foothold. We need to eat a good diet. Does anybody remember the food pyramid? The basic four will get you a long ways to eating healthy and keep from getting sick. Fluids, healthy food and plenty of sleep should be at the top of the list of things to do for/against the flu.

Last and but not least, keep your spiritual selves healthy. A good dose of God by means of daily prayer, attending church and helping others will help keep us centered.

Potluck - November 15th

Food—shared food—does more than feed our bodies. Food connects us with others! In several weeks, most of us will gather around a Thanksgiving Table and enjoy a meal together. That meal together connects us with family and friends in very significant ways! Potlucks are those church family meals that feed us—body, soul and spirit.

You are invited to bring a dish to pass and participate in Celebration Hall after Legacy Worship (about 11:45am.)

Man Up

The next meeting of Man Up is Monday, November 9, at 6:45-7:45 am. We will be continuing our study of leadership principles in Exodus. Join us for fellowship, coffee, donuts, and learning more about God's word. If you missed the first session, don't worry about it. Each study session is independent of the others. The study is designed so that no advanced preparation is necessary. However, if you would like a copy of the study guide, contact Bud Bowlin at budbowlin@cableone.net



Rebuilding - Mission - Bayou Blue

Would you like to go to Louisiana in January (think 50 degrees warmer than Fargo) to help rebuild from hurricane damage? There is a group forming to go January 16-23, 2010. The expected costs will be split three ways: \$250 from personal funds, \$250 fundraised and hopefully \$250 from Support and Endowment. Sign up on the volunteer board by December 1st. Questions, please contact Ann Ulliman, Becky Koch or Steve Shive.

Holiday Decorating Party

All members are invited to join us at **4:00 on Sunday, November 22** to decorate many areas of the church for the holiday season. The work party will culminate with the lighting of the Sanctuary Christmas tree and a soup supper. This is a particularly family-friendly event. All ages are welcome to participate. Consider making an afternoon of it: call the church office for a complimentary FMSO chamber concert ticket, attend the performance, stay to decorate, and end with supper.



Thanksgiving Dinner

Plans are being made for our annual community Thanksgiving Dinner. Hundreds of meals will be served to those who might otherwise go without the traditional turkey dinner. Dozens of volunteers are needed for this mission opportunity. Sign up binder will be at the Welcome Center on Sunday, November 1. We need potato peelers, turkey carvers, gelatin salad and dessert makers, potato and gravy makers, meal preparers, drivers and cleaner-uppers. Find the task that best fits you and your family as we share the blessing of Thanksgiving.

Holy Buckets

Starting in November and continuing as one of the trees of the Festival of Trees in December, we will be collecting new and gently used winter outerwear for children and youth of the Bdecan Presbyterian Church on the Spirit Lake Reservation. If the children don't have a winter coat, hat, mittens and boots, they can't get on the bus and if they can't get on the bus, they can't go to school and if they can't go to school, chances are they will not get the education they need to improve their lives. Let's help these children bundle up as they wait for the school bus. Green buckets are in the Gathering Space to receive your donations.

Short-Term Choral Singing Opportunity for Kirkin'

Perhaps your schedule does not permit consistent participation in our Sanctuary Choir. We invite you to join us for one special, short-term choral singing opportunity as we prepare for the **Kirkin' O' the Tartans Service**, November 8 (see article on cover page). Rehearsal is on **Wednesday, November 4, 7:30-9:00 p.m.** We will be participating in both 9:00 and 10:45 services.

Whether you are an active participant in our choir, an occasional singer, relative, family friend, or interested guest, you are welcome. Contact Director of Music, David Fandrich for more information (dfandrich@firstpresfargo.org).

FMSO Chamber Orchestra Concert in our Sanctuary, Sunday, November 22

The Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra continues its chamber concert series in our Sanctuary on Sunday, November 22 at 2:00. It will feature music of the European Roma peoples ("gypsies") who inspired and influenced many composers throughout Western music history. This rich musical influence brings passion, dazzling virtuosity, compelling rhythms and exotic harmonies to works from Brahms to Bartok. A limited number of complimentary tickets are available to anyone in our congregation. Please contact the church office by Thursday, November 19 for tickets. Members of First Presbyterian are needed as ushers for this event. Contact the church office to volunteer your services.

Home Communion Volunteers

Elders and deacons, past and present, are being asked to consider helping to serve communion to those unable to attend worship. Home communion kits are prepared and blessed along with the services' communion elements. Elders/deacons are commissioned during the service and communion is brought to those who are in their homes on Sunday afternoon. We bring home communion on World Communion Sunday and the Communion Sundays closest to Christmas and Easter. Pastor Mary will train all interested officers to join those who have already been trained. If you are interested in serving the Church in this way, please sign up on the volunteer opportunity board in the foyer. If you have already been trained to serve in this way, please, sign up as well so we know you are still interested.

Confirmation 2009-2010: An Experiment in Growing as Missional Disciples

Most Wednesday evenings and some Sunday nights, a small group of ninth graders gather to explore what it means to be a missional disciple of Jesus Christ.

This class is covering topics such as "Engaged in a Story," "Created for a Relationship with Jesus," "Strengthened by Practice," "Built for Community," and "Out in the Community." The class will involve classes, personal reflections, worship notes, meeting with a mentor, and going into the community.

The Giving Tree

We are sponsoring A Giving Tree with 120 names of needy local children awaiting Christmas gifts from you! The tree will be part of our Festival of Trees and will be in the Gathering Space the end of November or beginning of December.

New Member Sponsors

We are in need of New Member Sponsors. This is a wonderful way to welcome new people into our church. The commitment is short-term, but you may discover that you'll find some long-term new friendships. To volunteer, contact Mike Lochow or Rev. Shive.

Farewell Rev. Tweit

First Presbyterian has been blessed to have The Rev. Julie Tweit as its Parish Associate for the past two and a half years. This month, Julie moved to St. Cloud, MN to begin a new job. If you would like to drop her a note and express your appreciation for her presence with us, her new address is:

Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home
1900 Veterans Drive
St. Cloud, MN 56303