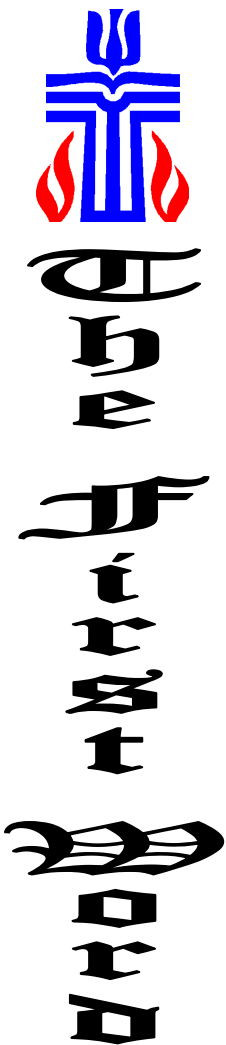


January 19, 2011



First Presbyterian Church

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Rockford, IL 61103

Voice: 815-968-0478

Website: www.firstpresrockford.com

All the People, Ministers

Rev. Beth Wagner

Transitional Pastor

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Sally Borgetti

Christian Education Director

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Elizabeth LaGrande O'Leary

Music Director

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Valarie Van Winter,

Administrative Assistant

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New Year Practices

Suggestions for Ways to Celebrate the New Year in Meaningful Ways:

Practice: Preparing

Consider taking some time to prepare -- even if only for an hour or two -- to really listen for the deeper longings pulsing within you. What emerges from that place of stillness and grounding in your holiness and goodness, rather than from a list of your shortcomings? What new doors are waiting within you to be opened?

Practice: Reconciliation

Is there someone you have hurt this past year through your words or actions? Is it possible to ask for their forgiveness? Is there someone who has hurt you this past year through words or actions? Can you offer them forgiveness?

Practice: Dream-Tending

Keep paper and a pen by your bed and before going to sleep ask to receive dreams with wisdom for the year ahead. When you awaken, try to jot down some notes about images and feelings you notice before you get up and lose those threads that connect you to the dream's story. Honor the way dreams speak in non-linear and intuitive language. Dreams often reveal the hidden rooms of our soul and invite us inside for exploration.

Practice: Walking into the New Year

Consider a contemplative walk at a labyrinth if you have one near you, or in a peaceful, wooded place. As you take each step, ask yourself how you want to walk in the year ahead. Pay attention to what responses rise up in you and embody this in the pace and movement of your body. As you continue to walk imagine yourself stepping across the threshold of something new and notice how your body feels.

Practice: Doing What You Love

Make a list of the five most important and soul-nourishing activities of your life and spend a day savoring these experiences.

May you make friends with newness and know deep within that the God who keeps revealing new things to us, also fills us with hope for a future of peace.

Taken from Crossing the Threshold: New Year, New Beginnings, a reflective art journal created by Christine Valters Paintner, Ph.D.

Blessings,

Beth

Pastor Beth will be out of the office the following dates: February 6—10.

FAITH AT THE END OF YOUR FORK

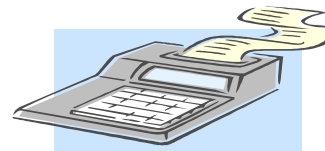
The Enrichment evening class, Faith at the End of Your Fork, began January 11. David Jones is leading another study about food . . . not just for the sake of one's own health, but the health of the planet.

Faith at the End of Your Fork will guide us through *Diet for a Hot Planet*, a book by Anna Lappe. Anna writes that her book should "help you draw a line between your pork chop, your Pop-Tart, and the rising mercury on the planet's thermometer." Ms. Lappe asks why there is hunger in a world of plenty and suggests what you and I can do about it each time we sit down to eat.

But there is more. Ms. Lappe will speak in Rockford this spring. If you've not done so already, ***please sign up by calling Dave at 815-540-3703*** so that you may share in the study of this remarkable book and speak to its author on Saturday, April 28 at a special event sponsored by the Rockford Chapter of Bread for the World.

Financial Report—December 2011 General Fund Year to Date

Jan. 1: Beginning Balance	\$950.23
<u>Income:</u>	
Pledges	\$143,808.08
Other income	19,459.72
Transfers Trust Fund	<u>147,678.89</u>
Totals	311,896.92
<u>Expenses:</u>	
General Budget	\$282,524.87
Transfer designated	21,836.48
Totals	\$304,361.35
December 31: Ending Balance	\$7,535.57



Sunday School for Kids in Jan/Feb

Located in First Fruits Education Wing

We will return to workshop rotations. We will be studying Moses and Peter. Each week we will learn the story of Moses and Peter in a new and fun way. Join us!

January 22 – Games	February 5 - Puppets
January 29 - Radio Show	February 12 - Art



Christian Learning Academy

(Sunday School for Adults)

"The Wired Word"
Bridge Clinic Waiting Room

This is a timely and relevant curriculum that explores recent topics in the news from a faith perspective. The curriculum is emailed to you each week if you sign up ahead of time - or just drop in and we will have photocopies of the week's lesson. Please note there will be no Adult Education on Sunday, January 22 but will resume on Sunday, January 29.



First Hands Puppet

Performance

"God Talkin"

During Worship: Sunday, January 29



First Friday Study

Horizons Bible Study

Sally Borgetti's Office

1:00 p.m. 1st Friday each month

Sally Borgetti, Facilitator



The Transition Calendar for 2012

(Subject to change at any time!)

- January—Congregational Survey to determine thoughts and desires regarding the future of the congregation after the building is sold.
- February-April —Scouts are sent out to 2nd Congregational and 3rd Presbyterian to visit the churches and experience worship, education and fellowship events. Scouts would agree to visit both congregations.
- May—Scouts report back to Transitional Team and a report is made to the congregation about findings.
- June—Decision is made about our future location and how we will go about making the move/ merger.
- July-Nov —Move/ Merger Talks occur. Joint worship experiences and activities.
- December 30, 2012—Last Sunday worship at 406 N. Main occurs.

Starting in mid-January we will be scheduling “cleaning out the church” workdays. Watch the First Updates and Friday email updates for more information.

FAIR FOR ALL



Valentine's Day is one month away and it's time to think about Love, Justice and Chocolate.

When you purchase Fair Trade Chocolate, not only are you giving a gift of great taste but you are also making a statement that Children matter.

Support Small Farmers / Support the Harkin Engel Protocol.

There will be a special showing of "The Dark Side of Chocolate" in February.

The Staff would like to thank the congregation for your generous holiday gift.

The Session has called for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Rockford, Illinois, to be held on Sunday, February 5, 2012, following the 9:30 Worship Service.



January Birthdays!

20	Bryce Mayer
22	Richard Lierman
24	Greg Makulec
	Jea Yi
25	Alice Harris
29	Janet Hendricks

February Birthdays!

01	Don Freedlund
	Catherine Gallegos
02	Ethan Ryan
03	Deborah Lewis
	Debra Mayer
04	John Spindler
05	Carolyn Greenlaw
06	Adriana Phillips
07	Tom Butler
08	Joel Lewis
	Heather Larson
10	Ethan Butler
	Joanne Johnson
17	Jeffrey Moore
18	Jill Torgerson

EMERGENCY CLOSING

Following are the TV and radio stations to listen to in case of an emergency closing of First Presbyterian Church:

TV: Channel 23 WIFR
RADIO Stations:
WNTA-AM 1330
WROK-AM 1440
WZOK-FM 97.5
WXXQ-FM 98.5
WKGL-FM 96.7



Please remember to turn in your 2012 Pledge Card if you haven't done so. Thank you. 2012 offering envelopes are in the upstairs lobby. Please be sure to pick up your box. If you have not turned in a formal pledge but would like a box of offering envelopes please give Valarie a call.

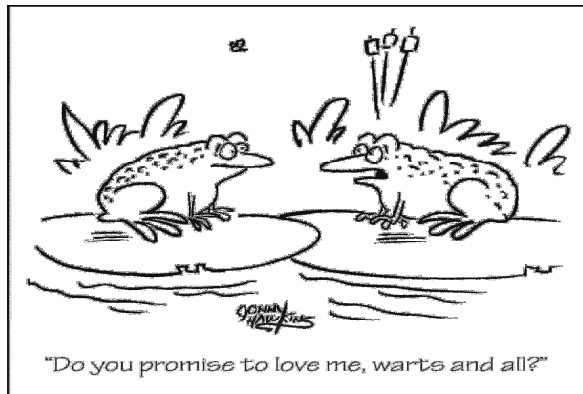


The Flower Chart for 2012 has been posted on the wall outside the Fulton Room. If you would like to have flowers on a Sunday that's open, just sign your name on the chart. Cost of flowers is \$32.

Soup Kitchen Dates for 2012

Please mark your calendars!

Saturday, February 11
Saturday, May 5
Saturday, July 21
Saturday, October 13
Saturday, December 8



WEDNESDAY ENRICHMENT

Schedule

First Hands Puppets rehearsal: 4:45 - 5:45 p.m.
Dinner: 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
Classes: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

ENRICHMENT DINNER

6:00—6:45 p.m.

\$5 per person/\$15 max per family

The best meal at the best deal in town will be on Wednesdays. Reservations must be received by noon on Monday. Call the church office and make your reservations. If you wish to make a standing reservations for the remainder of the meals please do. If you already have a standing reservation and are unable to attend the dinner, please call to cancel by noon on the Monday.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

There will be two class options:

Option 1: "Faith at the End of Your Fork"

Class Leader: David Jones

This study is about food justice issues. It is based on the book by Anna Lappe, "Diet for a Hot Planet." The class will also prepare participants to attend an event on April 28 in which Anna Lappe will be the keynote speaker. Please contact David Jones to order book by calling him at (815)540-3703, or emailing him, (davidj6226@aol.com).

Option 2: "Bad Girls of the Bible"

Class Leader: Joyce Pogue

Enjoy this humorous book and lively discussion. Learn from the mistakes made by the Bible's notorious "bad girls." Author Liz Curtis Higgs offers a unique and clear sighted approach to understanding these women. She combines a contemporary retelling of solid, verse-by-verse study of their mistakes and what lessons we can learn from them.

More detailed information on these two classes will be printed in the First Presbyterian Winter 2012 Activity Guide that will be available in early January.



My Lord What a Morning (from the African-American spiritual)

Many thanks to all who had a part in making Sunday morning, January 15, a most memorable occasion, Pastor Beth, the Choir, Phil Davidson, Fellowship Committee and to all members and friends who attended. All efforts were gratefully appreciated. It was so nice to sing my favorite hymns and listen to one of my favorite anthem during the worship service. Special thanks to David Jones for the videos, those musical videos have been sent coast to coast and places in-between. Family members from Connecticut to Washington State have enjoyed them and agree that there aren't many words that rhyme with "Pogue". For all the gifts (the food, music, books, flowers, gift cards, the letters, the check, even the "jokes") again, many, many thanks to all my church family!

When did we all get so "old", so fast? The years have gone by so quickly. During these 33 years, I have worked with 10 different pastors, 5 organists, several choir directors, administrative assistants, Christian educators and maintenance workers and many committee members. I have been part of many activities and events here at the church. There have been at least 400 funerals and memorial services of whom I have known the folk and called them friends. Weddings and baptisms have occurred. Watched babies grow up, leave for college and careers and come back to Rockford to live and/or visit.

I have always said I should write a book about my experiences here at FPC, but am afraid I would be sued as some of these experiences would boil down to "he/she said" type of remembrances. Examples of some of these memories: were asking and telling children not to play in the elevator but they didn't listen, so they got stranded in the elevator and calling the fire department to get them out; catching teenagers throwing and plastering the rest rooms walls with spit balls; teens placing chocolate cupcakes on the blades of ceiling fans in the main kitchen and then turning the fans on, they cleaned up the mess, I didn't; walking into the boiler room and finding Elders smoking; coming to work one morning and finding someone sitting on the bench at the North Main door waiting for his morning coffee while it perked in the percolator he had plugged in one of our outdoor outlet; watching the Preschool teachers catch and release ducks that had flown into the courtyard, but couldn't figure out to fly out; Elaine Jacoby and I trying to get a bat out of the third floor hallway—we got the job done; meeting Judy Moore White at FPC and realizing that she had been one of my 7th graders at the YWCA in Mason City, Iowa, years before; being interviewed on local TV when a water main broke at the intersection of Park Ave and Church Street and the water rolling down Park Avenue backed up in the street drains and overflowed into the church courtyard; and the list could go on and on. Anyone who might like to know about working in a church should read Jan Karon's books titled the Mitford series or attend the performances of the touring group, The Church Ladies. Just change the names of the characters in the books or plays, add local names and you will learn about your church.

You will still see me around as I plan to be involved in the church activities, but for the next couple of weeks I will be away visiting Croskey family members.

"What's past is past! Here's to what's around the bend." (Quote from R. C. Ryan, author)

Peace and much love,

Joyce Pogue



First Presbyterian Church
406 North Main
Rockford, IL 61103

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p><u>Saturday, January 21</u> 10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic</p>	<p><u>Tuesday, January 31</u> 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 3:30 p.m. Worship Team</p>	<p><u>Thursday, February 9</u> 9:30 a.m. First Carillon Ringers 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice</p>
<p><u>Sunday, January 22</u> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, February 1</u> 4:45 p.m. First Hands Puppets 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner 7:00 p.m. Enrichment Programs</p>	<p><u>Saturday, February 11</u> 10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic Soup Kitchen</p>
<p><u>Tuesday, January 24</u> 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 4:30 p.m. Guiding Team</p>	<p><u>Thursday, February 2</u> 9:30 a.m. First Carillon Ringers 1:00 p.m. AFSCME 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice</p>	<p><u>Sunday, February 12</u> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:00 a.m. Sunday Learning</p>
<p><u>Wednesday, January 25</u> 4:45 p.m. First Hands Puppets 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner 7:00 p.m. Enrichment Programs</p>	<p><u>Saturday, February 4</u> 10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic</p>	<p><u>Tuesday, February 14</u> 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee</p>
<p><u>Thursday, January 26</u> 9:30 a.m. First Carillon Ringers 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice</p>	<p><u>Sunday, February 5</u> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Annual Meeting 11:00 a.m. Sunday Learning</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, February 15</u> 4:45 p.m. First Hands Puppets 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner 7:00 p.m. Enrichment Programs</p>
<p><u>Saturday, January 28</u> 10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic 11:00 a.m. Highway & Hedges</p>	<p><u>Tuesday, February 7</u> 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 4:30 p.m. Guiding Team</p>	<p><u>Thursday, February 16</u> 9:30 a.m. First Carillon Ringers 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice</p>
<p><u>Sunday, January 29</u> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:00 a.m. Sunday Learning</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, February 8</u> 4:45 p.m. First Hands Puppets 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner 7:00 p.m. Enrichment Programs</p>	<p><u>Saturday, February 18</u> 10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic</p>