

October 20, 2011



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
406 NORTH MAIN  
ROCKFORD, IL 61103

# The First Word



## *Talking about Pink Elephants*

On Sunday, October 2, I felt like we brought a Pink Elephant out of the closet and talked about it. It seems to me, that no one was surprised when I shared the numbers that Session and I have been talking about for some time. It seemed like there were no surprises that we need to sell our building. It seemed to me that there is a sense of relief to be talking about this “Pink Elephant.” I am glad for that and I would like to help us talk about the building in productive ways.

Now we are not embarking on this journey alone. As I reminded you, the building is held in trust for the Presbyterian Church (USA). That means that while we have a say in the sale we have partners in this process. The Board of Trustees of the Presbytery of Blackhawk will work with us and help us determine the steps we need to take in selling this building. The Presbytery of Blackhawk Committee on Ministry will work with us as we determine whether we are closing, moving or merging. We have some good partners for the journey.

I am also clear that as we explore our future, that God is on this journey with us. The Bible is full of stories of God’s people and the journey they experienced. We are much like Abram and Sarai, as they left their home in Haran, not knowing exactly where God was calling them to go. They set off with a promise from God.

*Genesis 12:<sup>1</sup> The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup> "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

That promise is still our promise. We also set off with God blessing and promise that God will guide us and be with us always.

*Blessings,  
Beth*

Pastor Beth will be out of the office the following dates: 10/20—10/28 and 10/31—11/08. On Sunday, October 23, Rev. Dave Jones will be the guest speaker and on Sunday, November 6, Rev. Norm Shirk will be the guest speaker.

## Sundays at First Presbyterian Church Scriptures for the Day

### October 23, 2011: 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8      Matthew 22:34-46

### October 30, 2011: 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 3:7-27      Micah 3:5-12  
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37      Psalm 43  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13      Matthew 23:1-12

### November 6, 2011: 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-3a, 25-36      Amos 5:18-24  
Psalm 78:1-7      Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16      Psalm 70  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18      Matthew 25:1-13

### November 13, 2011: 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7      Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18  
Psalm 123      Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11      Matthew 25:14-30

### November 20, 2011: 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24      Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 100      Psalm 95:1-7a  
Ephesians 1:15-23      Matthew 25:31-46

### Financial Report—September 2011 General Fund Year to Date

Jan. 1: Beginning Balance		\$950.23
<b><u>Income:</u></b>		
Pledges	110,591.08	
Other income	15,601.10	
Transfers Trust Fund	119,665.69	
		\$246,808.10
Expenses:		
General Budget	214,855.00	
Transfer designated	20,823.28	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$235,678.28</b>	
September 30: Ending Balance		\$11,129.82

## SPECIAL MUSIC SERVICES

We have several special musical services coming up between now and Christmas. Here they are...mark your calendars!!

- 🎵 October 23      First Carillon Ringers
- 🎵 November 6      Bill Zartman, violinist, with the Chancel Choir
- 🎵 November 20      French Horn Trio
- 🎵 December 4      First Carillon Ringers and Chancel Choir
- 🎵 December 11      The Tiffany Trio

# Happy Birthday!

### *October Birthdays!*

- 23      Julie Manning Glover
- 25      Philip Davidson  
         Paul Rowald
- 28      Ed Conklin  
         Carrie Millikin
- 30      Benjamin Ryan  
         Lee Sessler

### *November Birthdays!*

- 01      Megan Anderson  
         Robert Cotter
- 02      Elizabeth Pauley
- 09      Meriann Munn
- 10      Willene Ziebell
- 12      Andrew Fairbanks  
         Kailey Habermann
- 13      Mary Lea Freedlund  
         Michelle Mann  
         Julie Verneti
- 15      Russell Morgan
- 16      Della Bull  
         Brian Schroeder  
         Robert L. Smith

# News from Sally

## Multi-Age Sunday School Classes

Join us in the Dining Room for to try something new. We will gather children and adults together for a round-table discussion on a group project. We will base each class on one of the traits of the Fruit of the Spirit. Relevant scripture will be discussed followed by a group activity.

Sunday, November 13 – “Peace”

(This will be the only learning hour option offered on these days.)

## Workshop Rotation (Children & Youth)

Each week we will learn about the story Joseph in a different way. It's a new and fun way to do Sunday School!

Sunday, October 23:	Board Game
Sunday, October 30:	Video (movie)
Sunday, November 6	Newspaper

## Advent Drama/Musical Children and Adults needed!

Plan ahead! This drama will be presented during Worship on December 18. Rehearsals will be during the Learning Hour on Nov. 20 & 27, Dec. 4 & 11.



**CHILI COOKOFF CONTEST  
&  
Fall Fest**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29  
AT 6:00 P.M.  
IN THE DINING ROOM  
CONTEST & POT LUCK  
PUMPKIN DECORATING  
FALL ACTIVITIES**



**Please sign up for our Fall Fest and Chili Cook-off:** A sign-up sheet is in the Dining Room, or you can leave a message for Sally. We will have a chili contest, great food, spooky punch, pumpkin decorating and lots of fun.

Please let Sally know how many will be attending, and what you plan to bring: Chili, Cornbread, Salad or Dessert.



## Daylight Savings Time Ends on November 6, 2011

Daylight Savings Time ends at 3:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 6, so be sure to “fall back” by setting your clocks back an hour

before you go to bed on the night of Saturday, November 5, 2011.

## Christian Learning Academy

**Sundays (for Adults)**

*Beth Wagner, Teaching*  
Bridge Clinic Waiting Room

One mark of Christian faith is the understanding that faith development is an ongoing process that does not stop when one is confirmed, reaches the magical age of adulthood, or even old age. We are excited to offer a Christian Learning Academy for adult members of First Presbyterian Church where we agree that we do not have all the answers but we are on a journey continually expanding our Christian knowledge and faith.

### The Seven Deadly Sins

(and their corresponding Virtues)

October 30	Sloth and Caring
November 6	Wrath and Patience
November 13	Envy and Love

### Held in God's Grace

(Advent Study)

November 20	Waiting
December 4	Accepting
December 11	Journeying
December 18	Birthing

#### Church Office Hours:

Monday: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.  
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.  
Wednesday: 12:45—4:45 p.m.  
Thursday: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.  
Friday: 12:45—4:45 p.m.



## First Hands Puppets

**\*\*Open to ALL ages\*\***

**Wednesdays—Now thru December 13**

**4:45 - 5:45 p.m.**

**Leaders: Mary Conklin & Sally Borgetti**



## Fall Enrichment Schedule

**Wednesday Nights**

**Vegetarian Meal by Chef Diana Kramer**

6:00-6:45 p.m. (\$7)

Children's Menu available (13 and under free)

## Stewardship of Life Series

**Program at 7:00 p.m.**

### October 26

*Program: Stewardship of Happiness*

*Speaker: Mert Manley*

### November 2

*Program: Healthy Beginnings—Epigenetics*

*Speaker: Roger Greenlaw*

### November 9

*Program: Healthy Beginnings—Cancer*

*Prevention and Survival*

*Speaker: Carolyn Greenlaw*

### November 16

*Program: Science and Faith Part 1*

*Speaker: Bill Baskin*

## John Ortberg Book Study

*"Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them"*

*Facilitator: Julie Manning Glover*

Call Valarie at 815-968-0478 by noon Monday to register for Meal and/or Programs.



## Notes of Interest



**REMINDER:** Please bring your pledge card on October 30<sup>th</sup> for pledge Sunday, or mail it to Valarie sooner if you can't make church that Sunday. If you've lost or misplaced your pledge card, please contact the church office.

### **FAIR FOR ALL October is Fair Trade Month**

**SALE**-all tea \$3.00 a box (They will go back to \$4 in November). In November whole pepper infused olive oil \$10.00 per bottle (regular price is \$12). We have new gourds in stock and alabaster Nativities. The Fair For All Shop also has a new blend of coffee, The Congo Project, it's whole coffee beans! Get ready for wall art from JustGoods—yes, they have agreed to loan us a different piece of art work each month. We will tell the story that goes with the art. The story (plus the cost of the art work) will also be printed in the First Word and the bulletin.

### **LIFE LINE SCREENING PREVENTIVE HEALTH EVENT**

#### **Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today?**

Life Line Screening will be at First Presbyterian Church on Monday, December 5, 2011 offering five safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical.

To be more proactive about your health and live longer for yourself, your family and your community, call to register at 1-888-653-6441 or visit our website at [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners). You can learn your risk of having stroke or vascular disease, prices range from \$129 to \$159. There is no time like the present to take action!

### ***A Quote for Autumn***

*A few days ago I walked along the edge of the lake and was treated to the crunch and rustle of leaves with each step I made. The acoustics of this season are different and all sounds, no matter how hushed, are as crisp as autumn air. ~ Eric Sloane*

### **TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT**

On Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:00 p.m. we will hold a Trunk or Treat Event for the children of our churches and the Haskell/Coronado neighborhood.

We need volunteers from our Jeremiah churches that would be willing to bring their cars and donations of candy to the parking lot of Second Congregational Church. Back your car into a parking stall and open your trunk! Kids will be invited to trick or treat out of your trunk. Decorate your trunk and have a chance to win prizes.

If you would like to volunteer, please give Becky Erbe a call at 815-963-8431 or email her at [Becky@Secondcon.com](mailto:Becky@Secondcon.com) so we know how many people we can count on to help out. Deadline to sign up is October 24th.

All children of our churches, neighborhood, and Haskell School are invited to participate.

### **JINGLE BELL RUN/WALK FOR ARTHRITIS-- Saturday, November 19, 8:30 a.m. at the ISC**

**Sportscore Complexes:** This year, I am tying jingle bells to my shoelaces and participating in the Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis on Saturday, November 19. Did you know that one in five Americans has arthritis? That's more than 46 million Americans including over 300,000 children – yes, kids get arthritis too. Arthritis is much more than just aches and pains. For many, it significantly impacts their ability to complete simple tasks like dressing themselves or even walking. Arthritis hurts. You can help. Get in the spirit this holiday season at the Arthritis Foundation's Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis. Be one of the thousands of runners and walkers who hit the nation's pavements, pathways and parks this winter to fight arthritis, the nation's most common cause of disability. Jingle Bell Run/Walk is a fun and festive way to kick off your holidays by helping others! Wear a holiday themed costume. Tie jingle bells to your shoelaces. Run or walk a 5 kilometer route with your team members and celebrate the season by giving. You can sign up at <http://www.jinglebellrockford.com>. (Submitted by Valarie Van Winter)



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**406 North Main**  
**Rockford, IL 61103**

NON PROFIT ORG.  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 ROCKFORD, IL  
 PERMIT NO. 1581

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Saturday, October 22**

10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic

**Sunday, October 23**

9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time  
 11:00 a.m. Sunday Learning

**Tuesday, October 25**

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast

**Wednesday, October 26**

4:45 p.m. First Hand Puppets  
 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner  
 7:00 p.m. Enrichment

**Thursday, October 27**

9:30 a.m. First Carillon Ringers  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

**Saturday, October 29**

10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic  
 6:00 p.m. – Chili Cookout/Fall Fest

**Pledge Sunday, October 30**

9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time  
 11:00 a.m. Sunday Learning

**Monday, October 31**

Halloween



**Tuesday, November 1**

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast

**Wednesday, November 2**

4:45 p.m. First Hand Puppets  
 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner  
 7:00 p.m. Enrichment

**Thursday, November 3**

9:30 a.m. First Carillon Ringers  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

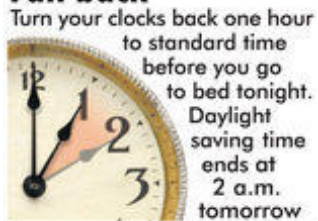
**Friday, November 4**

1:00 p.m. Horizons Bible Study

**Saturday, November 5**

10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic

**Fall back**



**Sunday, November 6**

9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time  
 11:00 a.m. Sunday Learning

**Tuesday, November 8**

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast  
 5:00 p.m. Mission Committee  
 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee  
 5:30 p.m. CE Committee

**Wednesday, November 9**

4:45 p.m. First Hand Puppets  
 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner  
 7:00 p.m. Enrichment

**Thursday, November 10**

9:30 a.m. First Carillon Ringers  
 12:00 p.m. First Word Deadline  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

**Saturday, November 12**

10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic  
 6:00 p.m. Mariners

**Sunday, November 13**

9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time  
 11:00 a.m. Sunday Learning

**Tuesday, November 15**

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast

**Wednesday, November 16**

4:45 p.m. First Hand Puppets  
 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner  
 7:00 p.m. Enrichment