

September 21, 2011



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
406 NORTH MAIN
ROCKFORD, IL 61103

The First Word



Children in Worship

I have been pondering thoughts of Children in Worship this month. They are challenging thoughts. It has been clear to me for a longtime that worshipping with children is important. So I want to spend some time sharing why this is important to me, as your pastor of family nurture.

First: I think a child worshipping with their parents, grandparents, friends and families is biblical. We are called to follow Jesus, who placed children “in the midst of them.” (Mark 9:36). Jesus welcomed and blest children when the disciples thought it would be an interruption. Jesus said the Gospel is for all people, regardless of age. The message of God’s love and redemption is not just an adult message. Children need to hear it as well.

I think I am most concerned about that fact that if we If we choose to not have children in worship we set up a two-tiered system, by definition. What, do you suppose, might be the message about God the children are getting? Who matters the most? Not the children. Where does a child figure that God is? In the church, with the adults. These are the words of a young child in a basement Sunday School class. *"We sing, but we're not supposed to sing too loud, or talk loudly enough to disturb the adults upstairs. Be still. Keep quiet. We sit down on little chairs when the teacher tells us to, and I fold my hands like she does. We're training for the real worship upstairs. We'll take our parents' places up there someday. And we'd better know how to act once we're there. But for now, keep quiet, and don't disrupt."* Is that the message 1st Presbyterian Church wants to send to our children?

Second, children belong in worship because the Body of Christ has no age requirement. Christianity is age-inclusive. For the Church to be whole – children need to be included. If we are willing to be inclusive, children bring a wonderful directness and simplicity of faith; they are spontaneous, receptive and have hope. They know how to show thankfulness and joy. We the adults can learn a lot if we are open to and honor the baptismal vow we take every time we baptism in the church.

Yet for many of us, kids are distracting, irritating and embarrassing in church. As parents, paying attention to our children can make us less attentive to the service. We are tempted to stay home or support the two-tiered system of worship, however teaching our children to pay attention to God, to worship God is one of the most important gifts and responsibilities we are given by God. *Deuteronomy 4:9-10 But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.*

*Blessings,
Beth*

Sundays at First Presbyterian Church Scriptures for the Day

September 25, 2011: 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7 Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9 Matthew 21:23-32
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13

October 2, 2011: 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19
Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:7-15
Phillippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46

October 9, 2011: 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Psalm 23

October 16, 2011: 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99
Isaiah 45:1-7 Psalm 96:1-9 (10-13)
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

September/October 2011 First Health “Earthquake!!!”- Whaddayado?

Hope I haven't "rattled" you too much with that title! Rockford City Hall was recently evacuated after feeling the effects of the Virginia earthquake of August 23. Who would have thought we would feel a quake centered so far away? Have you given any thought about what to do if things start shaking, rattling and rolling around you?

The following are excerpts from Centers for Disease Control, What to do During an Earthquake and About.com: Los Angeles Travel/FEMA-

- Take cover under a heavy desk or table and hang on. If the table moves, move with it!
- If your building is not earthquake retro-fitted, (usual only in California), your walls and ceilings are more likely to collapse. Lie quickly on the floor *next to* your bed, sofa, desk, or heavy piece of furniture. These objects will create a triangle that will protect you from being crushed by falling walls, heavy pieces of furniture or falling ceilings.
- Inner walls/doorways are also a good place to be. Stay away from all windows and outside walls! (Other sites say to make sure the doorway you take cover under is a load-bearing doorway, brace yourself tightly on the hinge side and hold on).
- Stay away from heavy pieces of furniture like china closets, glass hanging objects and pictures, shelving, cabinet doors that could swing open, light fixtures, bricks, etc.
- Grab something to shield your face from falling debris and glass.
- If the lights go out, *only* use a battery operated flashlight; no candles, matches, lighters.
- If you are in the kitchen, *turn off the stove* and take cover immediately.
- In a high-rise or hotel, stay inside, away from outside walls and windows, do not use elevators, and do not run outside!
- If you are already outside, stay as far away from buildings and utility wires as possible. Many are killed by falling debris coming down just outside any buildings. Stay outside until the shaking stops.
- If you are in a moving automobile, stop as quickly and safely as possible and move to the shoulder or curb, away from utility poles, overhead wires, and under- or overpasses. Stay in the vehicle, set the parking brake, and turn on the radio for emergency broadcasts. A car may jiggle violently on its springs, but it is a good place to stay until the shaking stops. It will feel like something is wrong with your car. Use your cell phone to get help. When you drive on, watch for new hazards such as breaks in the pavement, downed utility poles and wires, and fallen overpasses and bridges.
- If you are in a crowded indoor public place, do not rush towards the doors; others will have the same idea. You don't need to be trampled! Move away from display shelves, take cover under something heavy, and grab something to shield your face and head from glass and falling debris.

Your parish nurse,
Terri Young, RN

News from Sally

Multi-Age Sunday School Classes

Join us in the Dining Room for three dates in fall 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 6 - "Joy"

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, September 25:	Art
Sunday, October 2:	Newspaper
Sunday, October 9:	Drama
Sunday, October 16:	Cooking
Sunday, October 23:	Board Game
Sunday, October 30:	Video (movie)

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.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class is youth, 8th grade and up

The class will have 3 components to it:

1. There will be a portion dedicated to the history of Christianity & Bible basics. This will allow youth the opportunity to explore their beliefs and strengthen their faith.
2. A portion of the class will focus on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
3. The final portion of the class will be all about First Presbyterian and it's rich history.

Phase one of the class will begin on September 25 and be offered during the learning hour (11:00 - 12:00). The class will meet in Sally's office. Phase one will run for 6 weeks, through October 30.

Phases two and three will be offered in 2012 and will be arranged to work around the participating youth's schedules. They will either be offered in a "mini retreat" format on Saturday or Sunday afternoons, or again during the learning hour time.

Please sign up with, or direct any questions to Sally!

**BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY
(All Ages!!)
Sunday, October 16**

September Birthdays!

20	Ruth Homes
	Evan Larson
	Evie Larson
21	LaVerne Sarver
23	Sarah Baker
	Jane McAfee
25	Susan Davidson Kripplez
26	Martha Maschke
27	Ryan Zartman
28	Diane Sarver
29	Barbara Harvey
30	Donald Schroeder



October Birthdays!

01	Judy White	09	Joanne Strand
02	Bryce Martin	10	Mary Fosdick
03	Judith Sbragia		Adam Stack
04	Paul Gallegos	14	Marilyn Hartzog
	Jeff Manning		Billye Vernam
	Rune Nooden	15	Cheryl Butler
	Carol Rice		Taylor Martin
06	Carole Cotter	16	Eric Conklin
07	Barbara Smith		Brian McConnell
08	Bruce Johnson	17	Carlee Dittbenner
	Katherine McMurry	19	Lois Keierleber
	Robert McMurry		
	Doris Rowald		



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)

September 25	Lust and Chastity
October 2	Gluttony and Temperance
October 9	Greed and Generosity
October 16	Sloth and Caring
October 23	Wrath and Patience
October 30	Envy and Love
November 6	Pride and Humility

Held in God's Grace (Advent Study)

November 13	Waiting
November 20	Accepting
December 4	Journeying
December 11	Birthing

Financial Report—August 2011 General Fund Year to Date

Jan. 1: Beginning Balance		\$950.23
Income:		
Pledges	97,952.57	
Other income	14,921.45	
Transfers Trust Fund	99,588.89	
		\$213,413.14
Expenses:		
General Budget	188,825.83	
Transfer designated	20,746.48	
Total	\$209,572.31	
August 31: Ending Balance		\$3,840.83

2011 SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION AND CWS HYGIENE KITS

The Mission Committee has once again decided to collect school supplies. This year we would like to collect school supplies for the following organizations:

2. The Homeless Center for the Rockford School District
3. Haskell School Students
4. Literacy Council

Included are the lists for each organization. We welcome any donations, either supplies or monetary gifts.

We are also going to collect for the CHURCH WORLD SERVICES hygiene kits this year. Presbyterian Women in Blackhawk Presbytery have asked each church in the Presbytery to collect hygiene kits this year because of the large number of disasters in the past year. The cost of a hygiene kit is \$10.00, if giving a monetary donation, plus \$2.00 per kit for shipping costs.

If you would like to donate to a specific organization, please specify when donating supplies or a monetary gift. Once again, thank you in advance for your generous gifts to these worthwhile causes. If you have any questions, please ask anyone on the Mission Committee.

Winnie Lierman for the Mission Committee

Mariners & Friends

October 15, 2011

6:00 p.m.

Potluck at the church—bring a dish to pass and own tableware. Program—featuring the Nightingales (Elizabeth LaGrande O'Leary, Cathy Herdeman, Marsha Martin)

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.

Wednesday Night Enrichment

Wednesdays Now thru December 7

First Hands Puppets

(Open to ALL ages)

Wednesdays, now thru December 13,

4:45 - 5:45

(in the puppet room, "Creation Patch")

Mary Conklin, Sally Borgetti, Leaders

Vegetarian Meal

6:00 - 6:45 p.m. - \$7 per person

Enjoy a delicious vegetarian meal prepared by Chef Diana Kramer. Children's menu available (children 13 and under eat free). Reservations are required by noon Monday of each week.

Option 1-Fall Stewardship of Life Series

Program: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
September 28	How Money Works? Brian Knabe	November 9	Healthy Beginnings Cancer Prevention and Survival Carolyn Greenlaw
October 5	Socially Responsible Investing Herb Allen	November 16	Science and Faith part 1 Bill Baskin
October 12	Travel Health and Safety Terri Young	<i>No class November 23 (Thanksgiving)</i>	
October 19	Ecology and Health Sally Hoff, Roger Greenlaw	November 30	Science and Faith part 2 Bill Baskin
October 26	Stewardship of Happiness Mert Manley	December 7	Science and Faith part 3 Bill Baskin
November 2	Healthy Beginnings – Epigenetics Roger Greenlaw		

Option 2: John Ortberg Book Study

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

Program: 7:00—8:00 p.m.

This is a fun and very insightful book. Come and enjoy the fellowship and great discussions. Book Cost : \$15 (Also available on Kindle)

Facilitator: Julie Manning Glover

Location: First Fruits Education Wing

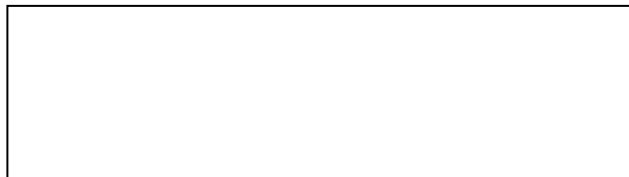
Call or email Valarie to register for the meal and/or class at 815-968-0478 or firstpres@tds.net.



First Presbyterian Church
406 North Main
Rockford, IL 61103

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p>Saturday, September 24 10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic</p> <p>Sunday, September 25 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:00 a.m. Sunday Learning</p> <p>Tuesday, September 27 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast</p> <p>Wednesday, September 28 4:45 p.m. First Hand Puppets 5:00 p.m. Property Committee 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner 7:00 p.m. Enrichment</p> <p>Thursday, September 29 10:00 a.m. Bells Practice 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p> <p>Saturday, October 1 10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic</p> <p>Sunday, October 2 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Stewardship Brunch</p> <p>Tuesday, October 4 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast</p> <p>Wednesday, October 5 4:45 p.m. First Hand Puppets 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner 7:00 p.m. Enrichment</p> <p>Thursday, October 6 10:00 a.m. Bells Practice 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>Friday, October 7 1:00 p.m. Horizons Bible Study</p> <p>Saturday, October 8 10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic</p> <p>Sunday, October 9 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:00 a.m. Sunday Learning 11:00 a.m. Health Fair</p> <p>Tuesday, October 11 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee</p> <p>Wednesday, October 12 4:45 p.m. First Hand Puppets 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner 7:00 p.m. Enrichment</p> <p>Thursday, October 13 10:00 a.m. Bells Practice 12:00 p.m. – First Word Deadline 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p> <p>Saturday, October 15 10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic 6:00 p.m. Mariners Potluck</p> <p>Sunday, October 16 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:00 a.m. Sunday Learning</p> <p>Tuesday, October 18 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee</p>	<p>Wednesday, October 19 4:45 p.m. First Hand Puppets 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner 7:00 p.m. Enrichment</p> <p>Thursday, October 20 10:00 a.m. Bells Practice 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p> <p>Saturday, October 22 10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic</p> <p>Sunday, October 23 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:00 a.m. Sunday Learning</p> <p>Tuesday, October 25 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast</p> <p>Wednesday, October 26 4:45 p.m. First Hand Puppets 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner 7:00 p.m. Enrichment</p> <p>Thursday, October 27 10:00 a.m. Bells Practice 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p> <p>Saturday, October 29 10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic 6:00 p.m. – Chili Cookout/Fall Fest</p> <p>Pledge Sunday, October 30 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:00 a.m. Sunday Learning</p>
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