

# The Carill n

First Presbyterian Church  
Phone: 269-964-3700  
www.firstpresbc.org  
Vol. 16

111 Capital Avenue N.E.

Battle Creek, MI 49017  
FAX 269-964-7488  
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February 2012

Issue 1

**Pastor Jeff**



**Middle School Kids**

**The Church at Prayer**





From Our Senior Pastor

Dear Friends:

“Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart” (2 Corinthians 4:1 NRSV).

If God’s work is important then it is worth thinking about how we can do the best possible job. Here at First Presbyterian Church we have been using the Engaging Church model as a blueprint for planning our ministry. This is expressed in our Mission Action Statement: Go Out, Bring In, Build Up.

To Go Out - We Serve Christ through SERVICE to others.  
To Bring in - We Connect people to God through OUTREACH.  
To Build up- We Nourish people in the Spirit through WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, and DISCIPLESHIP.

I want to lift up to you five strategic initiatives we believe are crucial for carrying out this plan. For the most part they are not new but I lift them up to you to ensure that you *do* know what they are, to encourage you to pray about them, and for you to consider how you can help bring them about.

(1) We have formed a Connection Team to help implement the Engaging Church Model. The most visible aspect of this group has been various special outreach events, such as Three Men and a Tenor last

March. These events are designed to reach out to the community and bring people from the community through our doors. But there is a great deal more to the Connection Team than just these events. We seek to Attract outsiders, Welcome and Connect visitors, and Integrate new members.

(2) We have deliberately gone to one, Full Treasure style service on Sunday mornings. This is still a work in progress. The aim of Full Treasure Worship is to glorify God, and gather, unite and bless his people.

(3) We created a Building Improvement Task Force (now called the Building Improvement Committee) to make recommendations regarding the safety, security and maintenance of our building as well as considering enhancements that will have the most positive impact on our ministry and outreach. We have been blessed with a beautiful and historic facility dedicated to the honor of God. We have a responsibility to be wise and faithful stewards of what has been entrusted to our care.

(4) We have been reviewing how to make the best use of the gifts and talents of our existing staff. This includes strengthening our ties with and affirming the ministry of Rev. Pat Weatherwax with the goal of her becoming our next installed Associate Pastor.

(5) The fifth initiative has to do with the financial resources to support the plan. We anticipate a special combined campaign in the Spring of 2012. By the grace of God, such a campaign can provide for the needed capital improvements, support for our mission and give a vital boost to our ongoing ministries. This will be

an opportunity to invest in the work of God. And unlike investing in the stock market, a sincere investment in the work of God will never yield a negative return.

Yours in Christ,

### Pack Well



During Lent, as we focus on Christ’s journey to the cross, let’s also examine the journey of our lives. The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing. What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries, relationship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Thanks to Easter, we know that our journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf.

—Based on the “Journey to Hope” sermon series,  
[www.rethinkchurch.org/lent](http://www.rethinkchurch.org/lent)



I am not a morning person. The other morning I couldn't find my glasses. I searched all the logical places, and

decided I would just have to function without them. I can still legally drive without them and could find some "readers" to help with close-up work. I see adequately without their help. Then I looked in the mirror and saw that my eyeglasses were *already* on my face. I took them off and realized I *don't* see as clearly as I'd thought. I can not get through the day without the help of my glasses. Living as a follower of Christ is a lot like wearing our glasses. We really don't see as clearly as we could, without help. Our lens into God's world is the scriptures. We need to be in study, in the company of other believers.

"Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God, thy will to see; Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine."

Your church wants you to see God more clearly, but you need to do your part. Put on the habit of Sunday School and/or High Point. Accept the invitation to join the Men's Fellowship bible study or a PW circle. Read your Bible, find a challenging book. God will help you to see more clearly, but your initiative is needed to make it happen. Ask God for direction on how to open your eyes, to refresh your faith and give you new insights in Christian living.

*Pat Weatherway*

Pastor Pat  
<><

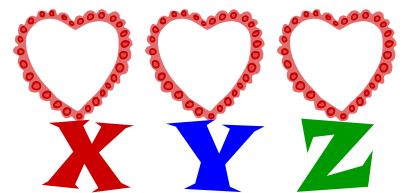


### Focus Groups February 7

Two focus groups will take place at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively on February 7 at First Presbyterian Church. The goal is to produce a list of key questions that need to be answered before we attempt to launch a major revitalization campaign. In other words, "What do you need to know before deciding to get on board with a major campaign?" Everyone is welcome to attend. Please R.S.V.P the Church Office (964-3700) and indicate which session you will attend.

### Be Still

How does the soul wait upon God? Picture it this way: We're in an art gallery and a certain painting catches our eye. We want to get as much meaning and inspiration from it as possible. Do we rush past it and expect meaning to leap out as we pass? No, we have to wait in its presence, stand or sit in front of the painting and wait for it to speak to our innermost soul. So it is with God. We have to open our souls to let God's personality invade ours. We must wait and not rush. In this Lenten season, let us find occasions to be still and come to know God. "Be still and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10).



### Valentine's Party!

Monday, February 6  
12:00 p.m.  
Parlor

Potluck—Bring a dish of red food to share



### Annual Meeting & Potluck

February 19

11:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. Beverages will be provided.



## Exciting News from the Benevolence Committee!

Laura Foster

Look in the parlor for the new Mission Collection Corner.

There are occasions when we, as well as other committees or groups within the church, choose to provide "hands-on" mission. Several such activities have been undertaken on a regular basis over the years. Right now, you will find a basket for Presbyterian Women's collection of socks and underwear for Charitable Union. Other times there have been projects for The Second Mile Center or CityLinC's community baby shower. Christian Education's collection of supplies for Vacation Bible School also enlists church-wide support. The needs in our community are great and we at First Presbyterian Church have always been willing to give generously.

In order to provide visibility and awareness of opportunities for members and friends to donate needed items, the Benevolence Committee has established a Mission Month calendar as well as a central collection point.

The role of the Benevolence Committee in this effort is to

- ◆ Be the first contact for the church office or any church committee or group that wishes to have a collection box.
- ◆ Keep and publish a mission collection calendar that will be available monthly in the Carillon, on

the Benevolence bulletin board opposite the chapel, and at the collection point.

◆ Designate the northwest corner of the parlor (by the kitchenette) as the collection point. It should be kept in the same place so it can be visible and people know where to expect it.

\*\*The collection of food for the Franklin Food Pantry will remain at the west entrance, and the food collection for Christmas baskets will remain in Fellowship Hall at the discretion of the Deacons.\*\*

The Benevolence committee is not in any position to approve or deny anyone's desire to collect items, it will merely make sure collection dates are on the calendar. Publicity regarding any collection, whether the bulletin, Carillon, or at the collection point, as well as pick-up and distribution of donations continues to be the responsibility of the group sponsoring the collection drive.

Please contact anyone on the Benevolence Committee to add your collection dates to the Mission Month calendar.

Benevolence Committee members: Dena Haas, Sally Fisher, Loretta Gold, Arden Hetletvedt, Belinda Bullard, Laura Foster, Marie Davy, Karen Rich, Jean Parker, Kathy Sawchuk, Steve Owel, Janett Bundy.

### MISSION MONTH CALENDAR 2012:

January-February – PW is collecting socks and underwear for Charitable Union.



## Caring for One Another

Jan Ritter,  
Stephen Ministry  
Coordinator

Few sights evoke as much attention and awe as that of a large flock of Canadian geese winging their way in their V-formation to the north or south. They speak of the changing of seasons and also of the value of teamwork.

When a goose gets sick or is wounded by a shot, it never falls from formation by itself. Two other geese also fall out of formation with it and follow the ailing goose down to the ground. Very often one is the mate of the wounded bird, since geese mate for life and are extremely loyal to their mates. Once on the ground, the healthy birds help protect him and care for him as much as possible, even to the point of throwing themselves between the weakened bird and possible predators. They stay with him until he is either able to fly, or is dead. Then and only then, do they launch out on their own. In most cases, they wait for another group of geese to fly overhead and they join them, adding to the safety and flying efficiency of their numbers.

If only we human beings would care for one another this well! Stick with your friends... and more importantly, stick by them! Look up Hebrews 10:25 for the scriptural meaning of this story . . . or an alternate version, told in the style of the great Pun-master Jim Hill, is: "Remember the banana – when it left the bunch, it got skinned."

# First Church Calendar



# February 2012

First Presbyterian Church  
 111 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, Michigan 49017 269-964-3700 [firstpresbc.org](http://firstpresbc.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> Worship 10A Sunday School 11:15A Sr. High Youth 6P	<b>30</b> Boy Scouts 6:30P	<b>31</b> Volleyball 6:30P	<b>Feb. 1</b> PW Bible Study 9:30A Staff Meeting 11A High Point 5:45P Middle School Youth 6:15P	<b>Feb. 2</b> Church at Prayer 7A Senior Pastors' Prayer 8A Handbells 6:15P Choir 7:30P	<b>Feb. 3</b>	<b>Feb. 4</b>
<b>5</b> Worship 10:00A Sunday School 11:15A Sr. High Youth 6P	<b>6</b> XYZ Potluck 12P Retreat Center Com. 5:30P Boy Scouts 6:30P	<b>7</b> Stephen Ministry 10A Focus Group 2P Stephen Ministry 6P Volleyball 6:30P Focus Group 7P	<b>8</b> Priscilla Circle 9:30A Staff Meeting 11A Wellness Class 4:30P High Point 5:45P Middle School Youth 6:15P	<b>9</b> Church at Prayer 7A Senior Pastors' Prayer 8A Ruth Circle 11:30A Elizabeth Circle 5P Handbells 6:15P Choir 7:aQP	<b>10</b> Sew n Sews, etc 9:30A	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Worship 10:00A Sunday School 11:15A Sr. High Youth 6P	<b>13</b> Trustees 5P Facilities Com. 6P Boy Scouts 6:30P Deacons 6:45P Session 7P	<b>14</b> Martha Circle 9A Deborah Circle 1P Volleyball 6:30P Miriam Circle 7P Boy Scout Committee 7P	<b>15</b> Staff Meeting 11A Wellness Class 4:30P High Point 5:45P Middle School Youth 6:15P	<b>16</b> Church at Prayer 7A Senior Pastors' Prayer 8A Handbells 6:15P Men's Fellowship 7P Choir 7:30P	<b>17</b> Youth depart for Winter Camp	<b>18</b> Youth Winter Camp
<b>19</b> Worship 10:00A Sunday School 11:15A Annual Meeting/Potluck 11:30A Youth return from Winter CampP	<b>20 Presidents' Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> Cabinet 6P Boy Scouts 6:30P Benevolence Com. 7P Christian Ed. Com. 7P Worship Com. 7P	<b>21</b> Carillon Assembly 10A Stephen Ministry 6P	<b>22 Ash Wednesday</b> Staff Meeting 11A Ash Wednesday Worship 7P	<b>23</b> Church at Prayer 7A Senior Pastors' Prayer 8A PW Coord. Team 11:30A Handbells 6:15P Choir 7:30P	<b>24</b> Sew n Sews, etc 9:30A	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Worship 10:00A Sunday School 11:15A Sr. High Youth 6P	<b>27</b> Boy Scouts 6:30P	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Staff Meeting 11A Wellness Class 4:30P High Point 5:45P Middle School Youth 6:15P	<b>March 1</b> Church at Prayer 7A Senior Pastors' Prayer 8A Handbells 6:15P Choir 7:30P	<b>March 2</b>	<b>March 3</b>



## Happy Birthday!

February 1	Sue Stetler	February 21	Doug McCune Melissa Shaw
February 4	Bonnie Martens	February 22	Betty West
February 5	Linda Tuls Carolyn Warner	February 25	Robin Firth
February 6	Kyle Trainor	February 27	Abby Hegstrand Cindy Viano
February 7	Vickie Grant Kay Scofield	February 28	Bob Bokhart

*Our apologies to Char Nagel for missing her January 25 birthday.*

*If we missed your birthday, please contact the office and let us know so we can correct our records: 964-3700 or [marty.shroll@firstpresbc.org](mailto:marty.shroll@firstpresbc.org)*



**X = Kiss**

As you send Valentines this year, think about how using Xs to represent kisses came about.

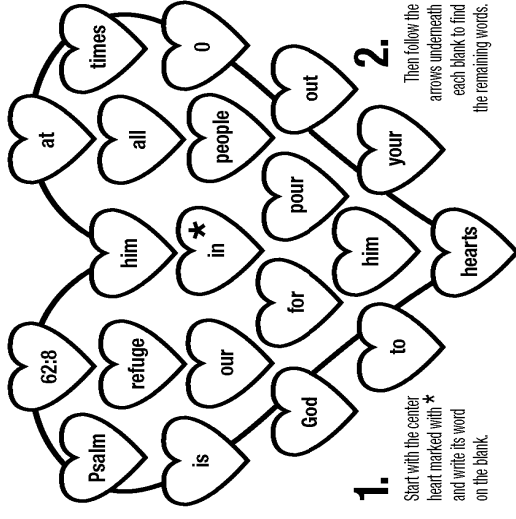
During the Middle Ages, when few people were able to write, many documents were signed with an X. Signers kissed the letter to affirm their sincerity in the same way they kissed the Bible when taking an oath.

The letter X wasn't selected at random. It was the sign of St. Andrew, who was crucified on an X-shaped cross. The X implied a sacred promise to fulfill one's obligation in the saint's name.



## OUR HEARTS

This special Bible verse from the NIV describes what God wants us to do with our hearts.



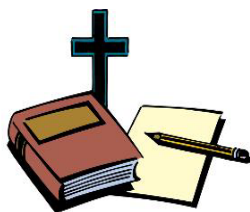
**1.** Start with the center heart marked with \* and write its word on the blank.

**2.** Then follow the arrows underneath each blank to find the remaining words.

“Trust \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ .”

Answer: “Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.” Psalm 62:8

## Christian Education Notes



Sunday mornings include more than worship!  
11:15 AM adult classes include "Talkback" sermon review in Fellowship Hall  
"The Spirituality of Forgiveness" in Room 12  
"The Gospel According to Mark" begins in mid- February, Room 14.

5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders meet in the Youth Center  
Beginners and K-4<sup>th</sup> graders meet on the second floor.

HIGH POINT continues on Wednesday nights.  
4:30 "Just Eating?" in Room 304-not too late to join this class!  
5:45 Dinner in the HIGH POINT CAFÉ  
6:15 Songs of Praise and Middle School Youth  
6:30 "Christianity and World Religions" video series in the parlor and  
"Beta: the next step after Alpha" in room 12.  
You are welcome to join in the fun and learning, or even just come for dinner. Kitchen helpers and dessert-providers are needed- please sign-up in the main hallway.



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**  
7 p.m.  
February 22.

Begin the season of lent at this special worship opportunity.



## Speedy Delivery

Mail delivery too slow? Tired of waiting for your Carillon?

Let us help you. Your Carillon can be e mailed to you every month. Just give us a call here at the office and provide us with your e mail address. Or e mail us at [marty.shroll@firstpresbc.org](mailto:marty.shroll@firstpresbc.org).

More than 50 of our members already receive their Carillon electronically. (We thank them for saving us the cost of printing and mailing!)

You can also read the Carillon on our website: [firstpresbc.org](http://firstpresbc.org).



## Deacon's Beacon

The Deacons' Fund offerings are received on Communion Sundays. Those funds are available to assist our church family in times of urgent financial need. To request a confidential grant from the Deacons' Fund you may contact Pastor Pat through the church office.



## Walk for Warmth

Help keep your community warm by joining the 27th annual Walk for Warmth on Saturday, February 25. The Walk begins at 9 a.m. at First United Methodist Church.

This event raises funds to help low income, elderly and disabled residents keep their heat on.

The Walk is sponsored by Community Action. For more information, you may contact them at 965-7766 or [caascm.org](http://caascm.org).



*Lenten Lunches*  
*Wednesdays*  
*Beginning February 22*  
*Noon until 1 p.m.*  
*Second Missionary Baptist Church*  
*485 N. Washington Avenue*



## OFF THE PRES Youth Ministries “Good News You Can Use!”

Laura Martinez  
Director of Youth Ministries

I think a lot of people are in love with love, especially romantic love. We go to great lengths to find it, even manufacture it at times. It's often fleeting and unpredictable, yet we desire it above most everything else.

Over the last year in Youth Worship we've ventured into Francis Chan's book, Crazy Love. And it seems appropriate that we will finish this study during the month in which love is celebrated.

The basic message is this: The God of the universe, whose crazy love for us took Him all the way to the cross, calls us to live out a life of crazy love for Him!

As we wrap up this study in the next few weeks, I wanted to share with you (and remind the youth of) some of the truths we've been challenged with.

cp 1: God is God—He made it all, He owns it all, He gets to make the rules, and He is WAY more than we can grasp.

cp 2: The stuff of this life is temporary—we need to invest in eternity.

cp 3: God is your loving Father who adores you!

cp 4&5: We are called to live in total surrender—God ***hates*** lukewarm “Christianity”!

cp.6: Are you truly in love with Jesus, or just what He can do for you?

cp 7: Are you willing to step out in faith and sacrifice for Christ? your personal comfort? your time? your preferences?

cp 8: A person obsessed with God loves what He loves and acts on that love.

People may call us crazy if we really live this way. My answer will be, “Yep, I'm crazy alright—crazy in love with my Creator and Savior. And He's crazy in love with me—and with you too! Would you like to know Him?”



### Office Closed

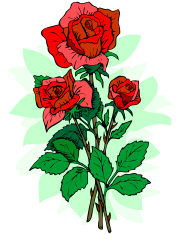
The Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 20 in observance of Presidents' Day.

### New Address

For the foreseeable future, Betty Finch will be living with her daughter in Colorado. Betty would love to hear from her First Pres family. Her address is:

Betty Finch  
c/o Marnie Gooding  
1554 Skyline Lane  
Longmont, CO 80504

### Roses . . .



to Pat Scheid for being a friendly volunteer driver.

to Kathy Baker for stepping up when Marge Weil was busy!

to Vickie Grant, Kiran Bilanow and Julie Haring for taking on extra nursery duties.

to Duncan McHolme for being an outstanding active senior (check the January 5 issue of the Battle Creek Shopper).

to Jenny Moore for her hard work and dedication in juggling board & committee meetings, end of the year financial statements and reports, and all her regular duties.

### Mission Yearbooks Are Here!

The 2012 Mission Yearbooks have arrived. You may pick up a copy in the church office for \$13.50.



### In Loving Memory

Janice Barton  
December 24



Dear Church Family,

The uplifting visits from Pastor Pat, Jan Ritter and several others during my recent surgery and rehab has made my road to recovery much smoother. I am grateful for the many prayers and caring concern shared with me. Thank you to all.

Opal Bell

To all Presbyterians,

I can't thank all of you separately—so I'm taking this opportunity to tell you how much I appreciate your kindness. Thank you so much for all your concern for my recent problems. All is intact now and only time is needed for recovery. The calls, cards, flowers and prayers made me feel blessed to be a part of this church family. Thanks!

Love,  
Leona Spencer

I am eternally grateful. I am overwhelmed to where I feel like I could explode. Pastor Pat and Sally Gubitiz's visits, flowers, cards and prayers, all helped me through this last difficult year without my beloved John. First Pres does the many good deeds that help one to journey on.

Forever gratified,  
Edie Burgess

### Bad Weather Advisories

If it's necessary to cancel programs due to bad weather, notices will be broadcast on WWMT, Channel 3 & WBCB 95.3 FM.



### Recycling

If you'd like to pass on your Christmas wreath/swag metal frame and/or bow to the greenhouse at the VA Facility, contact Kathy Baker to make arrangements for pick up.

We're looking for good homes for the wooden storage cubicles that are no longer needed in Fellowship Hall and the second floor primary classroom.

There are 5 small (24" deep, 48" wide, 43" tall, no wheels) and 10 larger (24" deep, 48" wide and 56" tall, with wheels). Some of these storage units have shelves or metal hanger bars others have slider doors. Contact Kathy Baker if interested.

It's been nearly a year since we began our First Pres Presents series. Past performances have generated excellent attendance and interest in the community. Several more events are scheduled in the coming months.

Please join us on March 4 at 3:00 p.m. for an organ recital by First Pres Music Director Dr. Stan Pelkey. Dr. Pelkey is an Associate Professor of Music (Musicology) at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

Featured artists for March 18 at 4 p.m. are The Paul Keller Quintet. Blending jazz, swing, and Gospel, southeast Michigan's premier combo features composer and one-time Battle Creek resident Paul Keller on bass.

On Sunday, April 15, at 3 p.m. be here to enjoy the Kellogg Community College Choir's Spring Concert. Dr. Gerald Blanchard directs the choir's performance, "Music Montage: from Motets to Jazz."

Organist Katelyn Emerson, presented by the Southwest Michigan Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, performs on Sunday, May 20, at 4 p.m. Winner of numerous regional competitions, she has performed both nationally and abroad.

All performances are free and open to the public.

# ASH

## WEDNESDAY

### FEBRUARY 22

### 7:00 P.M.

Issue 1 February 2012

Marty Shroll, Editor

*The Carillon* is a free monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church  
111 Capital Avenue, NE, Battle Creek, MI 49017

Mission Statement:

First Presbyterian Church exists to share God's love and grace with all people  
and celebrate the truth of Jesus Christ.



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