

The Carillon

First Presbyterian Church
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March 2010



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Sunday Morning



Lenten Lunch

From Our Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey S. Carlson

The Christian Church faces many challenges in today's world. But this is nothing new. The Church has always faced challenges, even going back to the First Century. We need to remember that the Church is to be about God's work and if we are doing God's work, there is no need for us to be discouraged. Paul tells us:

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

The term that is translated in this passage as "we are engaged" has to do with taking ownership of something, either literally or metaphorically, in order to bring about a positive outcome. God is calling us to take ownership of his work in the world in order to bring about a positive outcome. A Christian who wants to be in on this would be called an "Engaging Christian." A church that wants to be in on this would be called an "Engaging Church."

To this end, be sure to mark you calendars for the Engaging Church seminar to be held here on Saturday, April 17, 2010. Members and friends, officers and staff, are invited to participate in this one day seminar where we learn to be a congregation that actively pursues the purposes of God.

Yours in Christ's love,



Engaging Church Seminar

The Engaging Church seminar will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 17, 2010. Members and friends, officers and staff, are invited to participate in this one day seminar where we learn practical tools for effective outreach and church growth. Among other things we will look at how to: Attract Outsiders, Connect Visitors, and Integrate New Members. The seminar begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 4:00 p.m. with lunch included. (A \$5.00 donation is suggested to cover the cost of the meal and materials.) Please register by April 12 by contacting the Church Office (964-3700) or using the sign up sheet in the main hallway.



Special Worship Event April 18, 2010

A special worship event is coming in April called, "CELEBRATING THE TIMELESS GOD: AN EXPERIENTIAL APPROACH TO WORSHIP THROUGH THE AGES." Using selected worship music from 2,000 years of church history we will sample a variety of Christian worship experiences past and present. Mark you calendars and invite friends for this unique event scheduled for 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, April 18.

From Our Pastoral Care Associate

Rev. Patricia Weatherwax

One newer idea for observing Lent is to *add* something instead of "giving something up". What can you add to your daily life during this season of remembering Christ's love for us? Consider participating in the in-gathering of hygiene kit items for Church World Service, sponsored by the PW and the Children's Sunday School. Join a class or a prayer group, study more or pray more. Bring items for the food pantry. Send a card, or visit a church member who can't get out much. Call or e-mail somebody, just to say "THANK YOU" for being a part of my life. And I'll take this opportunity to do the same. THANK YOU for being my church family!

Pastor Pat

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Healing Prayer Service Sunday, March 7 10:15 a.m. Chapel

The focus this month is on the healing that can be found in *forgiveness*. Do you need to forgive someone, but find it difficult? Do you wish someone would forgive you? Come, request prayers for yourself or others.



The View from the Bench

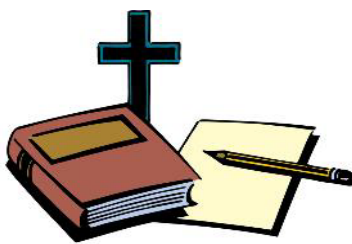
Stan Pelkey, Director of Music

Update: December's Handbell Choir Holiday Concert

A hearty "Thank You!" to all who attended the Handbell Choir/Harp holiday concert back on December 13. I hope that you enjoyed the program. The sanctuary was beautiful that afternoon, with our new Handbell Choir banner proudly on display, and seasonal decorations and several tables of candles creating a beautiful background for the music. It was also wonderful to have had harpist Ellen Grafius with us. About 140 people attended the concert, and we received many donations, for which I am very grateful.

Upcoming Special Musical Events:

On Sunday, April 11, 2010, the Handbell Choir will be performing in Kalamazoo, and I would like to invite all members and friends to join us for this special event. We will be among the guest musicians joining with the Kalamazoo Community Chorale for its 75th Anniversary Concert. The Kalamazoo Community Chorale is a 50-voice women's choir currently directed by my wife, Heidi Pelkey. The concert begins at 3:00 PM and will be held at the Comstock Community Auditorium at the Comstock High School. The event is free and open to the public, and there is ample free parking at the High School.



Education Update:

High Point

On March 3rd we will have a guest speaker at High Point. Chris Jakeway from KCC, a fascinating presenter, will explore "creation" with us. The "Tough Choices" class will continue on subsequent Wednesday nights, examining how medicine, research, science and faith all can come together for Christians. Feel free to join in this discussion class at any time.



Camp Greenwood

Flyers are available in the church office for this summer's sessions at Camp Greenwood! Children can find new ways to encounter God in this setting. Scholarship monies are available from our benevolence fund. Opportunities for "church camp" exist for every age group. There is even a program for those of you who camp for recreation in a tent or trailer. Check this out!



Three times in his last conversation with the disciples, Jesus urged Peter to value and care for the people Jesus so greatly loved. That message hasn't changed.

We can feed Jesus' sheep by making a generous, even sacrificial gift to One Great Hour of Sharing. Together our gifts can bring life necessities to disaster survivors throughout the world, help refugees build new futures, and aid impoverished communities to develop dependable livelihoods and secure sources of food and water.

Live your love for the Good Shepherd in the miracle of compassion. By sharing your resources through One Great Hour of sharing, you can change lives—including your own!

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be accepted on Palm Sunday, March 28.



Stephen Ministry

Jan Ritter, Stephen Ministry Coordinator

My Mother Told Me...

Maybe your mother told you this, too. I remember my mother telling me, **“There’s a reason why God gave you two ears and only one mouth. He wants you to talk less, and listen more!”** Sound familiar? This saying has a lot of truth to it.

Among other things, Stephen Ministers develop skills in reflective listening, learn guidelines on confidentiality, and prepare to minister to people in specific situations such as terminal illness, grief and divorce.

Stephen Ministry teaches that when you care for another person, Jesus is in that person and you are the incarnation of Jesus Christ. **Stephen Ministers learn that they are the “caregiver” and Jesus is the “curegiver.”**

“If Jesus had a friend going through divorce, he’d probably listen to them. If Jesus had a friend die, he’d cry, which is what he did when his friend Lazarus died. This stuff is simple, but profound,” says Ken Haugk, founder and CEO of Stephen Ministries. “Sometimes in the church and certainly in society, we’re not very good listeners. We tend to talk too much, myself included. We have to learn to bite our tongues and listen more. It takes discipline.”

A Stephen Minister trainee put it this way: “The difference between talking to a good friend and talking to a Stephen Minister is that a good friend still can be judgmental and have a tendency to want to fix things. But that’s not really what you need during a difficult time. You don’t need someone to tell you what to do, because in your heart, you know. You just need someone to listen. Maybe I can be a good listener for someone else.”

Hmm, so it seems like my mom really did have a good idea... **“Way to go, Mom!”**



Mark Your Calendar Now!
VBS: Galactic Blast
June 21-25, 2010
Westlake Presbyterian Church



“My whole family’s giving up something for Lent. Mom’s giving up cookies, Dad’s giving up cake, and I’m giving up squash.”



Thanks So Much!

Special thanks go out to Robin Johnkoski for her hands-on leadership of High Point Kids!



Thank You!

Pastor Jeff, Church Staff Members, Thursday Morning Prayer Group, all my church friends and family,

I am so fortunate to be the recipient of your many, many prayers. My thanks can not be expressed in words. I have felt the magnitude of your caring prayers during the past year and now as my right hand continues to heal. I praise God for all your loving, patient kindness.

Affectionately,
Jeanne Hickman

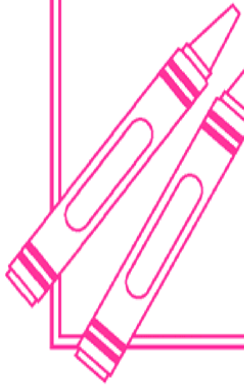
First Church Calendar



March 2010

First Presbyterian Church
 111 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, Michigan 49017 269-964-3700 firstpresbc.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb. 28 Worship 9 & 11:15A Sunday School 10:15A Praise Team 12:30P Sr. High Youth 5:30P	1 XYZ 12P Stephen Ministry 1P Retreat Center Com. 5:30P Boy Scouts 6:30P	2 Women's Fellowship 9:30A Volleyball 6P Stephen Ministry 6:30P	3 PW Bible Study 9:30A Staff Mtg. 11:00A Lenten Lunch 12P High Point 5:45P Middle School Youth 6:15P	4 Church at Prayer 7A Senior Pastors' Prayer 8A Handbell Choir 6:15P Chancel Choir 7:30	5	6 Alpha Training 9A
7 Worship 9 & 11:15A Healing Prayers 10:15A Sunday School 10:15A Praise Team 12:30P Jail Ministry 1:15P Sr. High Youth 5:30P	8 Hep C Support 4:30P Trustees 5P Facilities 6P Boy Scouts 6:30P Deacons 6:45P Session 7P	9 Martha Circle 9A Deborah Circle 1P Volleyball 6P Miriam Circle 7P	10 Priscilla Circle 9:30A Staff Mtg. 11:00A Lenten Lunch 12P High Point 5:45P Middle School Youth 6:15P	11 Church at Prayer 7A Senior Pastors' Prayer 8A Ruth Circle 11:30A Handbell Choir 6:15P Elizabeth Circle 7P Chancel Choir 7:30	12 Sew N Sews, etc. 9:30A	13
14 Worship 9 & 11:15A Sunday School 10:15A Praise Team 12:30P Sr. High Youth 5:30P	15 Cabinet 6P Boy Scouts 6:30P Benevolence Com. 7P Christian Ed. Com. 7P Worship Com. 7P	16 Women's Fellowship 9:30A Volleyball 6P Stephen Ministry 6:30P	17 Staff Meeting 11A Lenten Lunch 12P High Point 5:45P Middle School Youth 6:15P	18 Church at Prayer 7A Senior Pastors' Prayer 8A Handbell Choir 6:15P Men's Fellowship 7P Chancel Choir 7:30P	19	20
21 Worship 9 & 11:15A Sunday School 10:15A Praise Team 12:30P Jail Ministry 1:15P	22 Boy Scouts 6:30P	23 Carrillon Assembly 10A Volleyball 6P	24 Staff Meeting 11A Lenten Lunch 12P HighPoint 5:45P Middle School Youth 6:15P	25 Church at Prayer 7A Senior Pastors' Prayer 8A PW Coord. Team 11:30A Handbell Choir 6:15P Chancel Choir 7:30P	26 Sew N Sews, etc. 9:30A	27
28 Palm Sunday Worship 9 & 11:15A Sunday School 10:15A Praise Team 12:30P Sr. High Youth 5:30P	29 Boy Scouts 6:30P	30 Women's Fellowship 9:30A Volleyball 6P Stephen Ministry 6:30P	31 PW Bible Study 9:30A Staff Meeting 11A Lenten Lunch 12P	April 1 Maundy Thursday Church at Prayer 7A Senior Pastors' Prayer 8A Maundy Thursday Worship 6P	April 2 Good Friday Office closes at Noon Good Friday Worship 12P	April 3



Just for KIDS

God's teaching is like....

In Deuteronomy, Moses' words to the children of Israel remind us of spring, which brings growth and new life.

Use the flower code below to fill in the blanks, revealing Deuteronomy 32:2, NIV.

CODE

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"Let my teaching fall like



and my words descend like



like



like abundant



Answers: rain, dew, showers on new grass, rain on tender plants

DIRTY GUMPS

Make this easy snack for your family or your friends at Sunday school. As you eat it, celebrate the miracles God brings in the spring.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving size) box of chocolate instant pudding
- 1 (8 oz.) tub of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) plastic cups
- gummy worms and frogs
- plastic flowers (optional)

What you do:

1. Mix milk and pudding in a large bowl. Beat with a whisk until well blended. Let stand 5 minutes.
2. Add whipped topping and half of the crushed Oreos.
3. Place 1 tablespoon crushed Oreos in each cup. Fill cups 3/4 full with pudding.
4. Top with remaining crushed Oreos.
5. Chill at least 1 hour or until ready to serve.
6. Decorate with gummy worms and/or frogs.
7. Place the stem end of the plastic flower into the center of the pudding dessert.

Charitable Union: *Help That Brings Hope*



By Sally Fisher

Back in 1887, a group of church women (called the ladies of social responsibility) saw the need for the children in Battle Creek to have clean school clothes. They saw children on the streets and asked why they were not in school. The answer was that they had no clothes to wear. That need was met and, today, 123 years later, the Charitable Union is still meeting the needs of not only school children but children not yet in school and adults who may be looking for jobs and would like suitable clothing for job interviews.

In 2008, the Charitable Union served approximately 10,453 shoppers; an increase of 130% over 2003. They have distributed over two million items since 2003. Also, items such as small appliances (i.e., microwave ovens, toasters, etc.), bedding, work boots and baby layettes are available to those in need.

In addition to a paid staff, there are many volunteers who give their time to help where needed. Many talented individuals (both men and women) provide wonderful handmade items such as quilts, afghans, throws, scarves, baby sweaters and booties made from materials donated by our generous community.

Several years ago, because of the many donations of collectible items, pictures, jewelry, a gift shop was established where these one-of-a-kind items can be purchased. The money derived from these purchases is used to purchase additional items for children such as underwear and socks.

The Charitable Union's mission is a simple one: To provide clothing, bedding and small household items at no cost, to support families in need and to advocate with them for their further independence and self-sufficiency.



In Loving Memory

Phillip Keyes
February 12, 2010



Palm Crosses

We'll be making palm crosses on Wednesday, March 24, after the High Point dinner. Everyone is invited to help!



**Daylight Saving Time
Begins March 14
Set your clocks
ahead**



Bad Weather Advisories

Please listen to
WBCK
FM 95.3
And WWMT Channel 3
for cancellations.

TRUSTEE REPORT - ANNUAL MEETING

February 21 at 10:15 a.m. we gathered in Fellowship Hall for the Annual Meeting. We shared the 2009 Annual Report skillfully prepared by Marty Shroll. Thank you, Marty, for the gifts you bring to your position. We were excited to present a 2009 surplus and a 2010 balanced budget. In this 2010 year please help us educate our members on our Per Capita, as our donations to cover this budgeted item are very low. At the beginning of each year, each PC (USA) church pays a per member assessment to defray the operating costs of the various church bodies as well as the costs of missions that spread the Word to the world. Our rate for 2010 is \$23.08 per member (same as last year) for a total obligation of \$11,286.12. As of February 14 we have received \$2,562.60 in Per Capita offering.

2010 Board of Trustees:

Dan Haas-President, Dale Dittmer-Vice President, Art Angood-Treasurer, Nan Jones- Secretary, Kathy Baker, Carolyn Christ, David Fisher, Pat Jones, Mary Maley, Bruce Medaugh, Jim Nelson, Joshua Sherk, Marge Weil, John Hosking-Session Liaison.



On Sunday, February 14, we welcomed two new members, Jim and Jeannie Kerner, to our congregation.

Jim is a retired electrician and Jeannie is a licensed practical nurse.

We're delighted that they decided to join the First Church family!

X Y Z
Monday
March 1
Lunch at
The Irish Pub
Meet at the church
at 11:30



**"Hosanna,
Loud Hosanna"**

On Palm Sunday, many congregations sing a hymn written for children but loved by adults, too. Jeanette Threlfall, an Englishwoman, composed "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" in 1873.

Threlfall's parents died when she was still very young, so she was sent from one relative to another. She also had two serious accidents during childhood, leaving her disabled.

Threlfall handled her difficulties by developing a beautiful, cheerful character. She was more concerned about others than herself. People loved to visit her because they left feeling uplifted and joyous. Threlfall became known for her sacred poems and hymns. Many are considered classics, filled with sound doctrine and fervent devotion.

Here is the first stanza of her Palm Sunday anthem:

Hosanna, loud hosanna,
the little children sang;
Through pillared court and
temple the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them
close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.



Upcoming PW Events

**Church Family Chicken
Pie Supper**
Friday, April 30
6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Spring Fellowship
Saturday, May 15
10:00 a.m.
Parlor

Bulletin Board

Circle Meetings

Martha Circle	March 9, 9 a.m.
Deborah Circle	March 9, 1 p.m.
Miriam Circle	March 9, 7 p.m.
Priscilla Circle	March 10, 9 a.m.
Ruth Circle	March 11, 11:30 a.m.
Elizabeth Circle	March 11, 7 p.m.

HighPoint

Wednesday Evenings

5:45 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Food, Fun,
Learning
Opportunities



Lenten Lunches

Wednesdays

(Through March 31)

Noon until 1 p.m.

Second Missionary Baptist Church

485 N. Washington Avenue



Men's Fellowship

Thursday, March 18

7:00 p.m.

Library

Sew N Sews, etc.

9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

March 12

March 26

Church at Prayer

Thursday Mornings

7:00

Chapel



Holy Week

March 28 — April 4

Palm Sunday Worship

9 & 11:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service

6:00 p.m.

Good Friday Worship

Noon at First Congregational Church

Easter Sunday Worship

9 & 11:15 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church
111 Capital Avenue N.E.
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