

1st Presbyterian Church of Greenfield, Indiana



August 2009 Newsletter

From the Pastor,

Farewell Elaine!

August 2009 will bring a big change to First Presbyterian's music program. With reluctance, the resignation of Elaine Holloway, our music director for the last 14 years, has been received and accepted. Elaine's last Sunday worship service will be August 23rd.

Under Elaine's guidance and direction, our music program has thrived, adding a wonderful dimension to our Sunday worship. Not only has the program thrived, but so have the singers and musicians who have grown and shared their talents over these many years. Drums and trombones, flutes and guitars, bells and voices galore all have blessed us during worship.

To put Elaine's contributions into perspective, Rachel Terheide couldn't even talk when Elaine came to First Presbyterian. Last Sunday she brought us an amazing musical message about the goodness of God!

Everett and Helen MacCauley's great granddaughter Charly, is heading off to college this month on a vocal scholarship. Charly has shared her talents several times during worship and Elaine has worked extensively with her to develop her ability to read music and share it with others.

It would be difficult, if not impossible, to identify all those Elaine has touched in special ways leading our music program.

She will be leaving a legacy of meaningful, worshipful, music, and we will miss her leadership and friendly smile as well.

We wish Elaine and Dave well!

The Melody Masters are coming!

It seems like only yesterday that Myrt Bray approached me about having the Melody Masters gospel sing-along at First Presbyterian again.

That was two years ago, and now, the big day is almost here.

If you are not familiar with Melody Masters, here are a few facts:

...two years ago, the last time they were here, there were over thirty churches represented in the audience of those who came to sing, worship God, and share their testimony.

...The Melody Masters are a small group of singers and musicians who have a large following of folks who travel around the Indianapolis area, holding sing-alongs at different churches every week.

...they are volunteers, who do it for the love of God and old-time gospel music.

August Worship

Last Sunday we began the story of David and Bathsheba, a not-so-very pretty episode in the life of one of God's chosen leaders. During August we will hear the "rest of the story," where we will find out whether God forgives David's folly and actions. We will also see David's second son, Solomon, replace him as Israel's king and find out if Solomon can break the family tradition of ignoring God when it is expedient. At the end

of the month, we will take a look at the Bible's love story, Song of Solomon.

This promises to be an exciting month with great stories, powerful worship, and good fellowship as well.

See you in church!

Pastor John.

LETTER FROM THE ELDER OF THE MONTH – DEON HERSBERGER

Lately, I have been thinking about what God might expect of each of us. He knows that we are all sinners and fall short of His glory. But I don't believe that lets us off the hook for working some great deeds. He realizes that, with His help, we still can accomplish perfect acts.

When I was a child, I was shocked to learn that Don Larsen, a pitcher for the New York Yankees, pitched a perfect game in the 1956 World Series against the Brooklyn Dodgers. He was (and still is) the only pitcher in the history of baseball to pitch a perfect game in the World Series. When you consider all of the great pitchers that have played in the World Series throughout more than a century, Larsen would be near the bottom of the list of those that might be expected to pitch a perfect game. Larsen had pitched erratically throughout his career and even pitched poorly in an earlier game of the '56 series. Yet on that one October day he pitched perfectly.

For the better part of my life, I thought Larsen's perfect accomplishment was very strange considering his background. But when I think of his accomplishment from a Christian point of view, it is not that surprising. I can

see that anyone can be called to an act of perfection in a given situation. We could perform perfect acts of forgiveness, compassion, generosity, mercy, sacrifice, or self-control. Even though none of us will live a perfect life, we can still accomplish several individual acts of perfection and thus make the most of our life on this earth. God Bless,
Deon Hersberger

ELDERS ON CALL FOR JULY

The elders on call for July:

Deon Hersberger - 462-2597

ATTENTION ALL SESSION MEMBERS

The August Session Meeting is Thursday, August 13th at 7pm

ACTS 16:5

Our ACTS 16:5 team has begun meeting on a regular basis to look at all the aspects of First Presbyterian's mission of serving God. The ACTS 16:5 program is being supported by the Presbytery.

The team will be coordinating with the Session in working to discern God's will for our church.

Team members are:

Pastor John – team leader

Roby Hott

Jill Null

Deon Hersberger

Carole Bloodgood

Dennis Whitson

Synod News

Pastor John attended the Synod of Lincoln Trails meeting in Philo, Illinois on July 25. Here are some of the highlights:

...the Synod will be beginning a two year program for Commissioned Lay Pastors in January 2010. This is a wonderful opportunity for an elder to get closer to God and develop pastoral leadership skills.

...there was a presentation by Marcia Myers from the Office of Vocation at the PCUSA offices in Louisville. We found out that.....

- 50% of PCUSA churches have less than 100 members.
- 39% have 50 or fewer members
- 2,000 PCUSA churches have no identified pastoral leadership.
- There are 14,000 active ministers
 - 7,500 are installed pastors
- The retirement rate of pastors is declining as the retirement age increases possibly due to the economic climate.
- There are 2,300 ministers or candidates seeking a call
 - Only 200 of these are willing to serve a church of under 100 members.
 - There are 630 positions available.
- There are 425 persons seeking their first call after seminary.
 - There are only 190 positions open to accept a "first call" pastor.
- Commissioned Lay Pastors are filling the gap.
 - 131 Presbyteries have Commissioned Lay Pastors
 - Whitewater Valley (our Presbytery), has at least fifteen, with three serving as solo pastors:
 - Sandy Martin – Boggstown
 - Mick Saunders – Rushville
 - John Paulson - Greenfield

Final Letter from the Music Director
To: Pastor John Paulson & Session of 1st
Presbyterian Church, Greenfield, IN

It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter of resignation after having served as Music Director of this church the past 13 years. Dave and I both have built many friendships and have loved being part of this church family.

None the less, an opportunity has come my way that I feel is the direction God wants me to go. I have accepted the position of Director of Music at Mt. Comfort Methodist Church. I will oversee their music program working closely with a team of musicians who will be hired to build a stronger music program as part of a church growth endeavor. It is a financial blessing for me at this time and I feel I have been called to accept. Sunday, Aug. 23rd will be my last Sunday here.

Please know that Dave and I will continue to pray for this church and will miss all of you. God bless each and every one of you for the work you do for this church and may He hold you in the palm of His hands as you move forward.

Respectfully, Your Music Director,
Elaine Holloway

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING FOR July 2009

July 5	Attendance 44	Offering \$2077.00
July 12	Attendance 53	Offering \$1497.00
July 19	Attendance 70	Offering \$1227.50
July 26	Attendance 50	Offering \$1767.00

***If you would like to participate in
planning the farewell party for the
Holloways, please contact Susan Hott.***

August Birthdays

8/02 Steve Sweet
8/08 Shirley Johns
8/09 Audie Trinkle
8/13 Emily Chandler
8/14 Jack Sweet
8/16 Pat Whitson
8/19 Gloria Stansifer
8/19 Sarah Warner
8/29 Larry Andis
8/31 David H. Paterson
8/31 Mary Poole

August Anniversaries

8/03 Tom and Carole Bloodgood
8/17 Gary and Rita Trinkle
8/22 Mac and Betty McCleerey
8/29 Larry and Janie Andis

GREETERS FOR JULY

Pat Paulson and Ralph Scroggins

SOCIAL HOUR

We need people to help bake, serve and clean up after the Coffee Hour which we have every Sunday following the Worship Service.

Remember this should be something simple, it does not have to be a meal.

Farewell Party

On August 23rd we will have a farewell party for Elaine and Dave Holloway.

Please plan to stay after church and enjoy some snacks and tell them goodbye.

The "Bucket"

Have you wondered what the bucket on the "treat" table in the Selman room during coffee hour is for?

Our youth group is planning a mission trip next summer, the summer of 2010, to Washington, D.C. to see first hand the problems in our nation's capital and see what Christian organizations are doing to help people caught in the web of being poor.

The purpose of the bucket is to collect your change on Sunday mornings; it will be used to offset some of the costs of the mission trip.

If you don't have any spare change on a Sunday morning, that's OK. The bucket holds dollar bills as well.

This summer our youth group has been doing Bible study about Creation and the Flood. We have also watched GODSPELL on video, and had a special night out at the Legacy Cinema to see Ice Age 3, Dawn of the Dinosaurs followed by a pizza party at Pizza King.

Be a Part of Love INC

Our office is growing and we have open volunteer positions. *God has blessed this Ministry* wonderfully and we are expanding our operations to five days a week. To continue to help our community with needs that come in to our office on a daily basis we need to hear from you. Please call **468-6300** and talk to a volunteer or someone on staff.

As of July 6th: 277 Calls for help; 167 Families helped; 242 needs referred to churches; Over 1,030 hours gifted to Love INC office operations

AUGUST 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						Men's
						Breakfast
2						
COMMUNION	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:15 Adult S.S.			4 p.m. Pray with pastor			
10:30 Worship			5 p.m. Youth Group			
			5:30 p.m. Bible Study			
		Girl Scouts 3 - 4:30				
1 PM St Pauls Anglican						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:15 Adult S.S.		Comp/Christ	4 p.m. Pray with pastor			
10:30 Worship		9:30	5 p.m. Youth Group			
			5:30 p.m. Bible Study			
1 PM St Pauls Anglican						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Melody Masters			4 p.m. Pray with pastor			
9:15 Adult S.S.			5 p.m. Youth Group			
10:30 Worship			5:30 p.m. Bible Study			
		Girl Scouts 3 - 4:30 and 5-7pm				
1 PM St Pauls Anglican						
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29
Farewell Party						
9:15 Adult S.S.			4 p.m. Pray with pastor			
10:30 Worship			5 p.m. Youth Group			
1 PM St Pauls Anglican			5:30 p.m. Bible Study			