

OCTOBER 2011

THE FIRST ALERT

FIRST Presbyterian Church

10 Charleston Ave

Mattoon, IL 61938

Phone (217) 234-6722 Fax (217)234-4334

Email: fpchurch@consolidated.net Website: www.fpcmattoon.org

Sunday Worship

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Childcare provided

Children's Church

10:30 a.m.

Sunday school

9:30 a.m.

Kids' Club

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m.

Pastor

Rev. Art Woolverton

Secretary

Cherry Wishard

Treasurer

John Swick

Interim CE Director

Nancy Page

CE Asst. Director

Sharon Barta

Choir Director

Dick Barta

Organist

Kevin Chunko

Sexton

Tammy Latch

The Pastor's Perspective

I'm not sure whether congratulations or condolences are in order, but on October 6th I'll be sixty years old. (Actually, I don't feel a day over 59 ½.) I'm happy with where I am, and I carry my AARP card proudly! I'm grateful for what I've learned in life, and I certainly would not want to go back to my youth and have to learn those things all over again.

I'm all in favor of birthdays. As Father Larry Lorenzoni says, "Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that the people who have the most live the longest." As somebody else once put it, "Birthdays are God's way of telling us that we need to eat more cake." I guess that's the one thing that I do miss about being younger – when I could drink as many vanilla malts as I wanted to and not have to worry about putting on weight.

I don't pay much attention to birthdays, however, except for one – my spiritual birthday. That was the day I came alive to Christ and my life was changed forever. Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3). Don't get me wrong – I was already a good Presbyterian boy when I met Christ. And my life has not always been a bed of roses since then. I've had plenty of failures and problems and I haven't always been the Christian I'd like to be. But, whatever difficulties I've faced, I've never had to face them alone. Christ has been my Companion, my Coach and my Cheer-leader.

Whether you connect with Christ instantly or your ties to God take shape over a long period of time, what matters most is not what happened yesterday, but what is happening between you and God today? Whenever you turn to God and invite him to be your Partner, something new is born. Your life is changed; your world is expanded. As Job said, "In the past I knew only what others had told me; but now I have seen you with my own eyes..." and nothing you look at from then on will ever appear in the same light again. (Job 42:5)

Sermon Series: Lessons from God's Pioneers

Oct 2nd - Worldwide Communion Sunday
 Faith is trust in God's promise, despite our unbelief, **tested by trials.**

God asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his only son. Has God forgotten his promise?!

Isaac: The Middle Man

Oct 9th – The Original Seeker – Genesis 24:1-4, 10-27
 Abraham's servant goes on a quest to find a wife for Abraham's son, Isaac. The servant becomes the original Spiritual Seeker!

Oct 16th – Relationships Rule! – Genesis 24:52-67
 Rebekah agrees to marry Isaac, and Isaac falls deeply in love with her!

Oct 23rd – God Does Things Backwards! – Genesis 25:19-26

Rebekah gives birth to twin boys and, against all expectations, the younger son is destined to eclipse the older one!

Bible Study

The Thursday morning group is studying the Gospel of John. Anyone is welcome to study with the group from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. on Thursday mornings.

The 2011-2012 FPC Nominating Committee will meet on **Monday, October 17, 2011, at 5:00 p.m.** in the **FPC Parlor**. The purpose of this meeting is to prepare a nominations slate of officers (*Elders and Deacons*) for the Class of 2014 (*to be elected during the 2012 FPC Annual Meeting in January*). Please contact *Dennis Gathmann* with names of potential *Elders or Deacons*.

Priscilla Circle will meet Tuesday, October 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Connie Buescher. Connie will have devotions and will lead the Bible study. Also, please read Chapter one in your study book on the Beatitudes. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions call Alice Jeisy at 644-2625 or Elsie Carter at 235-6589. For those who wish to car pool we will meet at the Church parking lot at 6:30 p.m.

The Deacons are recruiting volunteers who would like to participate in our Sunshine Brigade outreach program this year! It is a wonderful way to experience the blessings of fellowship with those who are unable to attend our services regularly! Please consider joining us in this worthwhile mission. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex during the next few weeks. You may also contact the church office if you know of someone needing our support

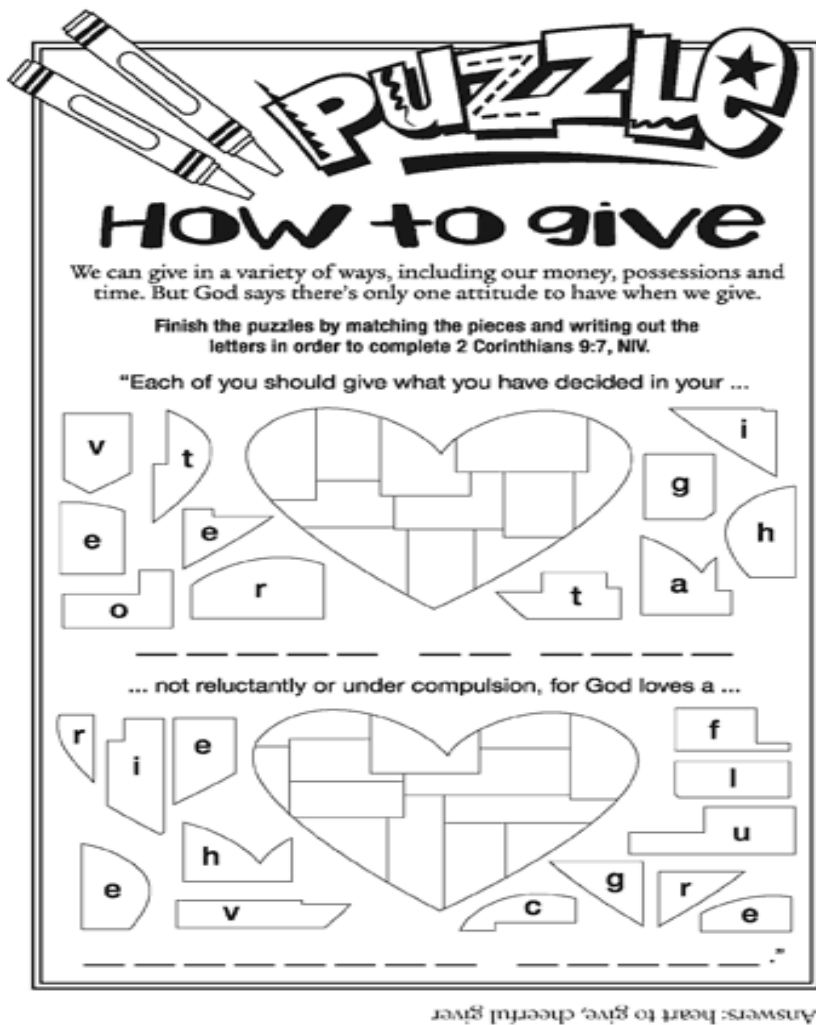
Would you like to learn more about Presbyterians? Do you want to find out if First Presbyterian Church is the right place for you to practice and grow in faith? Then come to a **Prospective Presbyterian Class** in the Church Parlor from 2-4 p.m. on **Sunday, October 16th**. Refreshments included. (One important fact: Presbyterians like to eat!) Please notify the Church Office (234-6722) if you plan to attend so that we will have enough of everything ready.

- **We have a new look...**
- We hope you like the updated newsletter which will now be available by download from the website. Or we would be happy to send yours to you by e-mail or regular mail.
- Please let us know your preference. 234-6722

Special Dates:

- World Communion Sunday, Oct. 2
- Columbus Day Oct. 10
- Reformation Sunday Oct. 30
- Reformation Day October 31





Family Nite, How'd you like to get to know some of the other people in our church and have fun doing so? Then Family Fun Night is the place for you on October 23rd from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. We'll start the night off with a Drawing Derby (no skills required) followed by some adult time and ending with dinner for all. So come check out all the fun - you'll be glad you did.

KIDS' CLUB IS BACK!

Following the Fall Festival, Kids' Club got off to a good start on September 14th with a new rotation curriculum which allows children to enjoy games, art, science, and music experiences to reinforce the Bible story and lesson each night. September lessons included stories about Isaac and Rebekah, Joseph and his brothers, and Joseph and Pharaoh. October lesson titles are Baby Moses, The Burning Bush and The Red Sea. The annual **Trunk-or-Treat** is planned for **October 26th**. As has been the tradition, children and adults are invited to wear non-violent costumes. Watch for further details in Sunday bulletins.

Kemmerer Village News

The drawing for the quilt will be on Saturday, October 15th at the Presbyterian Church in Assumption. The Southeastern Illinois P. W. Fall Gathering site has been changed to the church in Assumption. The Effingham Church had scheduling difficulties.

Keep saving the Box Tops for Education and the Campbell labels. They may be placed in a box in the Fellowship hall. The money realized from these labels provides for items not included in their regular budget. Thanks to all who do this. – Elsie Carter

Ladies Leisurely Luncheon

The first Ladies Leisurely Luncheon, held at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 13th, at Common Grounds, was a great success. We (16 First Pres. Ladies) had a wonderful leisurely time of fellowship! We urge all ladies of the church to join us for our next "LLL" on October 10th. We will meet in the church parking lot and carpool to Kemmerer Village in Assumption (about an hour away), and will have lunch there. Please be in our parking lot at or before 10:30. We ask that each lady bring a Christmas gift for a child in the facility. The children range in age from 12-18, and there are about the same number of boys as girls. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please be sure to sign-up, as Kemmerer needs to know the number of us that will be eating. Hope that all who attended this month will come again in October, and that many more will join us.



From morning till night, may your birthday be bright, and nicer than ever before... and as years come and go may your happiness grow and your dreams be fulfilled even more.



*October 26th
Sam & Betty
Wood*

*October 28th
Dave & Karen
Clausing*

“Love is the condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own.”

The wonder of worship

How sweet the hour of praise and prayer,
When our devotions blend,
And on the wings of faith divine
Our songs of joy ascend!
—Fanny Crosby

October Birthdays

Oct. 1
Melanie Smitley

Oct. 2
John Swick
Paula Birdsong
Francis Clark

Oct.3
David McDowell

Oct. 4
Kathy Clausing

Oct. 6
Betty Foster
Pastor Woolverton

Oct. 7
Elizabeth Druin

Oct. 8
Jonathon Hall
Susan Hutchinson
Roger Sorensen

Oct. 11
Evelyn Wilson

Oct. 12
Robert Miller
Lori Fellers

Oct. 15
Eric Hall
Ralph Glenn
Kenneth Ozier

Oct. 16
Vaughn Page
Lana Phipps

Oct. 17
Ann Spitz

Oct. 18
Mikayla Grant
Cheyenne Hernandez

Oct. 21
Karen Stone
Greg Thompson

Oct. 22
Carol Ildeman
Sam Irwin
Betty Podeschi

Oct. 24
Kyle Glenn
Alex Carey

Oct. 25
Lindsey Glenn
Meri Willaredt

Updating our member information:

We look forward to acknowledging church family birthdays and anniversaries in the newsletter and our Sunday bulletins - but feel that perhaps not everyone is being recognized because we don't have the information.

Please complete the following form with anniversary information and birth month and day - and mail or bring to the church office and we will update our records.

FAMILY: _____ Anniversary _____

Name _____ birthday _____

Name _____ birthday _____

Name _____ birthday _____

Name _____ birthday _____

Name _____ birthday _____

Sunday, October 2nd

World Wide Communion
Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Second Service 10:30 a.m.
SMS 2:00 p.m.
"Forty Days..." 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 4th

Women's Board Meeting 8:30 a.m.
Membership Meeting 10:00 a.m.
MS 12:00 p.m.
Dulcimers meet at 1:00 p.m.
Worship committee at 6:00 p.m.
Barbershoppers meet at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 5th

Kids' Club 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 6th

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Ruth Circle 9:30 a.m.
Bible 101 class 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 9th

Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Second Service 10:30 a.m.
Pre-Pack Food pantry 1:00 p.m.
"Forty Days..." 6:00 p.m.

Monday, October 10th

Alzheimer's support group 1:00 p.m.
Esther Circle meets at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 11th

Dulcimers meet at 1:00 p.m.
Priscilla Circle meets at 7:00 p.m.
Barbershoppers meet at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 12th

MHS Testing 8:00 a.m.
Kids' Club 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 13th

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Mystery Book Club 6:00 p.m.
Bible 101 class 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 16th

Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Second Service 10:30 a.m.
Prospective Member Class 2:00-4:00
"Forty Days..." 6:00 p.m.

Monday, October 17th

Christian Education 6:00 p.m.
Nominating Committee 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 18th

PEO meets at 9:00 a.m.
Dulcimers meet at 1:00 p.m.
Quadrangle Book Club 1:00 p.m.
B & G meet at 5:00 p.m.
Mission committee at 6:00 p.m.
Barbershoppers meet at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 19th

Kids' Club 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 20th

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Low Vision 10:30 a.m.
Bible 101 class 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 23rd

Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Second Service 10:30 a.m.
Family Nite 4:00 p.m.

Monday, October 24th

Deacons meet at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 25th

Dulcimers 1:00 p.m.
Session 6:00 p.m.
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 26th

Kids' Club 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 27th

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
PEO 6:00 p.m.
Bible 101 class 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 30th

Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Second Service 10:30 a.m.
Prospective Presbyterian
Class 2:00 p.m.

Monday, October 31st

Alzheimer's meet at 1:00 p.m.

**Prayer Requests
Continued prayers for
our shut-ins:**

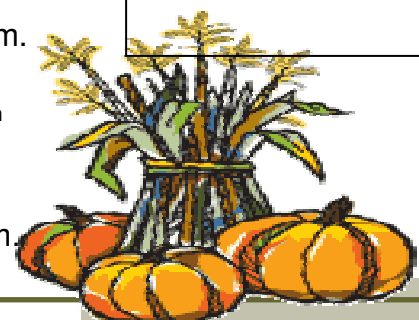
Francis Clark
Betty Hovious
Dorothy Irwin
Gladys Woolverton.

**For those having
treatments for medical
conditions:**

Virginia Campbell
Quina Helton
Susan Riggert
Yvonne Schroeder

**For all those who are
serving in Armed Forces,
including:**

Matthew Gathmann
Tony Gross
Kyle Martin
Scott Millsap
Tim Williams.



The Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois Report

The Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois stated meeting for Thursday, September 15, 2011 was held at First Presbyterian Church in Champaign Illinois. Moderator Rev. Bob Phillips opened the meeting with the Constituting prayer. Rev. Rick Snyder, pastor of the First Church, gave a welcome to the number in attendance.

Members were encouraged to try to describe their church in six words. The Presbytery chose these six words to describe it: One Lord; One table; many voices.

Palestine Presbyterian Church announced their Bi-Centennial celebration on Sunday, October 2nd at 6:00 p.m. After the morning worship the members divided into small groups to discuss the Presbytery staffing proposal.

Vice Moderator Coralee Lawler reconvened the meeting with prayer after lunch. The Peacemaking Offering was taken. It was announced that the Christmas Joy Offering had helped 1,500 families. The Presbyterians are the only denomination that assists retired pastors and their widows.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry announced that Tina Miller asked to be removed from her role.

Don Kingery gave the report for Camp Carew. He announced a 22% increase of church participants in camping, campers from six churches not Presbyterian and several children who didn't attend any churches. One counselor was of Catholic faith. The Camp also needs a van.

Mission Trip Report: The Mt. Vernon/Danville and Decatur Lampstand Churches sent worker to N.C. There were 400 workers at 61 sites and half were from Presbyterian Churches. After the worship service the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m. with benediction by moderator Rev. Bob Phillips. The next stated meeting will be Thursday, December 1, 2011 at First Presbyterian Church in Carbondale, Illinois.

Submitted by Elsie M. Carter
Commissioned Elder
