

# Tower Views

Volume 23, Issue 4

April 1-30, 2011

## Holy Week Events

### Palm Sunday

April 17 at 10:00 a.m.  
*Triumphant palm processional*



### Maundy Thursday

April 21 at 7:00 p.m.  
*Celebrating the sacrament of communion*

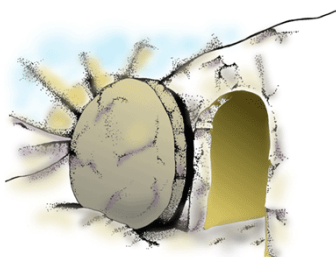
### Good Friday

April 22 at 7:00 p.m.  
*Remembering the story of the passion  
in music and drama*



### Easter Services

April 24 at 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.  
*Music by the Festival Choir &  
FPC children (10:00 a.m. service only)*



*We strive to be a vibrant Christian community that is loving, nurturing, open, sustainable and renewing, and one that inspires people of all ages to live in the Christian faith and serve the world.*

## For Your Information

### First Presbyterian Church

535 20th Avenue North  
South St. Paul, MN 55075  
651/451-6223  
www.fpcssp.org

*"All Are Welcome Here"*

#### Office Hours:

Monday through Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pastor Katie off on Monday;  
Pastor Tom off on Friday

#### Email Addresses:

#### **Pastor Katie Estes Collins**

katiec@fpcssp.org

#### **Pastor Tom Watson**

tomw@fpcssp.org

#### **Mary Love**

Administrative Assistant  
admin@fpcssp.org

#### **Linda Kachelmeier**

Director of Music  
lindakachelmeier@yahoo.com

#### **Kendra Brodin**

Organist and Director of Bells  
kendrabrodin@yahoo.com



In a pastoral emergency  
outside of office hours:

#### **Pastor Katie**

651/457-1080 (home)  
651/442-2126 (cell)

#### **Pastor Tom**

651/487-7760 (home)  
612/718-1785 (cell)

## Staff Notes



On Ash Wednesday, as we began the Lenten season together, Pastor Tom challenged us all to practice a discipline of gratitude by thinking of five things in each day for which we could give thanks. Not just a standard list of "my health, my family, my job ..." but a list of five things specific to the day, five normal or extraordinary, spectacular or mundane things that had happened or that we had recognized in that day that were worthy of thanks. Instead of giving up chocolate or smoking or a certain television show, we were challenged to take on this effort to notice the little things and push away the negative thoughts and remember God's hand at work in every moment of our lives. Being the math whiz that he is, Tom informed us that 40 days of Lent, plus six Sundays, times five things a day, would add up to a list of 230 thanks by the time we reach Easter! And, having a few math whizzes in my own family, my children quickly calculated that 230 thanks times four people in our family would mean a list of 920 things for us—and then we wondered, if we were that close, why we couldn't just go for a thousand thanks?!?

So, how are you doing on this challenge? It's a discipline, like so much of faith. It may seem to you like five is way too many for a day, or even like this effort doesn't feed you at this time in your life. As for my family, we're not getting it done every day, and I can't say it has erased all of the negative stuff that weighs us down and plugs up our lives, but we're trying it. We began

that first day, after Ash Wednesday, with a wonderful conversation at the breakfast table when one person said, "I stepped out of the shower and smelled pancakes, which brought me joy!" and we laughed together at the sheer fun it would be to list our gratitude. I have also made a commitment to make a card and send someone a thank you note each day, and am enjoying that part of my own discipline as well. Maybe for you it means countering the negative messages as they pop up with something positive, with a breath-prayer of thanks for the opportunity to correct yourself and move on. The effort is in the attempt, recognizing that it is not a natural instinct necessarily but something we could train ourselves to get better at, a new habit to adopt.

We can all point to someone who is better than we are—smarter, thinner, more attractive, more successful, with nicer clothing or more well-behaved children or a bigger house. We can probably even think of someone who is more faithful, or at least more involved at church, more committed to prayers, someone whose gratitude list already has a thousand thanks on it! But this season of Lent is not leading us to compare and contrast ourselves with others, but reminding us of the sacrifice made for each of us as individuals and all of us as the community of faith. God so loved the world ... not when we were looking our best, being our best, doing our best even, but simply because we are God's creation, the very work of God's hands. Practice the discipline of gratitude, as our journey to the cross leads to the miracle of the resurrection. Remember who you are, created in the image of God, and whose you are, a child of God. Give yourself a break, lighten up, and give thanks.

Katie

## Worship Schedule

**April 3, 2011**

**Baptism**

8:30 a.m. Education For All  
10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration  
11:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship

**April 10, 2011**

**Communion / Installation**

8:30 a.m. Education For All  
10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration  
11:00 a.m. Installation Reception

**April 17, 2011**

**Passion / Palm Sunday**

8:30 a.m. Education For All  
10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration  
11:00 a.m. Volunteer Recognition

**April 24, 2011**

**Easter Sunday**

8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration  
10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration  
Coffee and Fellowship all morning

## Installation Service

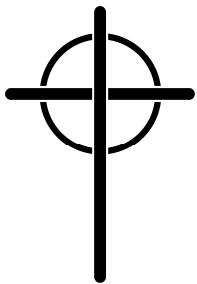
On October 10, 2010, following a three year trial period, the Congregation of First Presbyterian Church, South St. Paul voted to call Pastors Tom Watson and Katie Estes Collins as our Co-Pastors. This action was approved by the Presbytery on November 9, making the FPCSSP team an official co-pastorate.

However, in the Presbyterian Church (USA), the act calling of pastors (whether new or old) requires that they be installed during a special worship service. On April 10, we will be holding an installation service **as part of our regular worship**. As is required by the Book of Order, Elders and Ministers from throughout the

Presbytery will be in attendance that day, forming an Administrative Commission. Following the service, please join the Personnel Committee, the Pastors, and our guests for a reception in the Commons, continuing our Lenten practice of *The Discipline of Gratitude*, celebrating our “new” Co-Pastors, and looking forward to our bright future together.

## Holy Week Services

While perhaps they are not the biggest days of the year for Hallmark to make a couple bucks, the days between Palm Sunday and Easter are the holiest days of the Christian year. Because there are no Maundy Thursday television specials and no gifts exchanged on Good Friday, the culture gives these days almost no attention and for most of us they go unnoticed and without our participation. How do we practice our discipline of gratitude in light of these remembered events?



Maundy is short for the Latin

word **mandatum** translated as commandment. The specific commandment we commemorate on Thursday is Jesus' commandment to love one another as we have been loved. In the sacrament of the Lord's Supper that we share that night, we remember and give thanks for the sustaining presence of God during even the most difficult of times, as well as gratitude for the community of people with whom we celebrate it. What is so good about Friday? On this day, we recognize the power of devotion and faithfulness to overcome oppression and violence. We give thanks, that's right thanks, that even in our own suffering God does not forget us and that not even death can separate us from God's

love. Despite the images on the television and stories in the newspaper, God is still the only ruler of the universe and for that we are infinitely grateful.

On Maundy Thursday we will gather at 7:00 p.m. in the South Commons to share the Lord's Supper in community and give thanks for the love we have received and the sustaining presence of the Holy Spirit. On Good Friday we will gather again at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary to be gratefully reminded that beyond the most poignant suffering, the challenges and difficulties of this life, is the life-affirming power of the One in whom we place our hope and faith. Thanks be to God!

## Senior High Fellowship

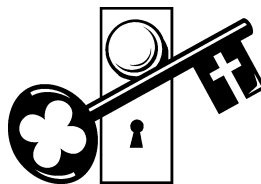
**Clearwater Spring Retreat** is April 8 - 10. Please meet at church at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, April 8. Bring a signed permission slip and \$75 made



out to Presbyterian Clearwater Forest. Please make sure you have already eaten or bring a bag lunch/dinner

with you. We will return on Sunday, April 10 between 1:30 - 2:00 p.m. Please bring some money for lunch on the way home. Come experience the wonderful signs of spring at Clearwater!!

**Lock-in** is April 15 - 16. Our theme is "Minute to Win It." Fun will be had by all so come everyone and see what challenges we have for you! Meet at church at 6:30 p.m. to view the last Lenten film (*Life is Beautiful* or *Toy Story 3*). If you are unable to come then, please plan on being at church at 9:00 p.m. Bring \$15 and a snack to share. We will be done at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday.



**Coming up in May:** Mark your calendars for the Epiphany Cheese Curds fundraiser on May 20 - 22.

## Come On In, the Water's Fine!

Kids and families are invited to celebrate spring at a special pool party on Sunday, April 10 from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. We'll share the time together at The Grove Indoor Waterpark at the Inver Grove Heights Community Center, at 8055 Barbara Avenue in IGH. This zero-



depth-entry pool and playscape is perfect for the youngest water babies among us and

still has plenty of fun in store for the older set, including two large waterslides and a challenging lily pad crossing. The lap and dive pools will also be open to our group, if you'd rather get in your swim time that way. Cost for our group will be just \$5 per person, and a concession area is available. We need to know how many will join us to swim—please sign up on the kiosk in the Commons or call the church office to save a space for your swimmers!



## Book Club Selection

The Book Club will meet on April 9 at 8:30 a.m. in the Truran Library to discuss *Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafón. For questions, please contact Julie Vigness-Pint. Books are available to check out in the church office and are due back on or before April 9.

In the postwar calm of 1945 Barcelona, ten-year-old Daniel Sempere awakes from a nightmare and, to his horror, realizes that he can no longer remember the face of his deceased mother. In an effort to divert his son's attention from this sharply felt fear and loss, his father, a rare-book dealer, first swears Daniel to secrecy, then takes him to a clandestine library where Daniel is allowed to select a single book. Entranced, Daniel picks a novel, *The Shadow of the Wind*, written by the



enigmatic Julián Carax, who is rumored to have fled Spain under murky circumstances, and later died. As Daniel begins to search for other works by his favorite new author, he discovers that they have all been destroyed -- torched by a mysterious stranger obsessed with obliterating Carax's literary legacy from the face of the earth. Though Daniel's copy of Carax's novel is the last in existence, he's unwilling to part with it at any price and dedicates himself to revealing the truth about Carax. Aided in his quest by the good-humored Fermín Romero de Torres, a former beggar whose "difficult life-lessons" enable him to keep a step ahead of trouble, Daniel begins to uncover a tale of murder, madness, and secrets that might best be forgotten. And as he wends his way through Barcelona society, both high and low, he comes to realize that his own part in *The Shadow of the Wind* is more than that of a mere reader.



"It's good to be back from the youth retreat, although I'd like to say I felt your prayers covering me..."

## Public Witness and Personal Journey

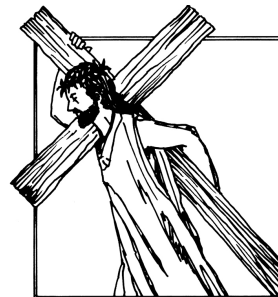
Good Friday, April 22, brings an opportunity for children, youth and adults to join together with other Christians in our community to make a public witness and a personal journey in our annual CrossWalk. Beginning at 1:00 p.m., members of many churches in South St Paul will gather here at First Presbyterian to pick up our 15-foot wooden cross and carry it on a carefully-planned 1.5 mile route through town. With brief stops along the way at participating

churches, civic locations and service agencies, we re-tell the story of Christ's passion and sing some familiar songs of the season. Participants take turns carrying the cross between stops, and we will conclude this year with a time of fellowship and refreshments at the new facility for Neighbors, Inc. at 222 Grand Ave.

While the weather in recent past years has complicated our plans and reduced our turnout for the annual community CrossWalk, we have

great hope for a beautiful afternoon in late April to make this public witness and personally prepare ourselves for the miracle of the resurrection.

Please come out and join us for part or all of this significant service. You'll be glad you did!



### Friday Film Forum

Come out to the movies on Friday evenings during Lent! We've had a



good showing for the first two movie nights and would love to have others participate. Gather in the Commons at

6:30 p.m. to pick up your popcorn and beverage before heading off to the film of your choice. Two movies will be offered each week—one appropriate for all ages and the other for older youth and adults. See the March issue of the *Tower Views* for a description of the films being shown. After the movies, we'll gather in the Commons for dessert and a time of conversation and fellowship.

**April 1:** *Bruce Almighty* (2003, rated PG-13) and *The Iron Giant*, (1999, rated PG).

**April 8:** *127 Hours* (2010, rated R) and *Finding Nemo* (2003, rated G).

**April 15:** *Life Is Beautiful* (1997, rated PG-13) and *Toy Story 3* (2010, rated G).

### Adult Education

**April 3—Lives Shaped by Gratitude:** Sarah Henrich, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, concludes her three part series on *The Discipline of Gratitude*. We will read Paul's many expressions of gratitude to God and to God's people, not least when the going gets tough and to see what Christian gratitude looks like through Paul's eyes.

**April 10 and April 17—** As we conclude our Lenten study of *The Discipline of Gratitude*, Patricia Lull will lead us in learning more about the teachings of Henri Nouwen, internationally renowned priest and author, who wrote over 40 books on the spiritual life and taught much about gratitude as a discipline. Patricia Lull is a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She had the privilege of studying with Henri Nouwen at Yale Divinity School. She currently serves in campus ministry at Augsburg College and is an Affiliate Pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul.

**April 24: Easter—**No adult class.

### River of Gratitude

In thinking through adult classes during Lent, the Adult Ministry Committee began seeing the discipline of gratitude as a theme living and growing and flowing through our lives, something that must be practiced mindfully even in times when it is difficult to see all that we have to be grateful for. Soon these thoughts became a "river



of gratitude" to assist in initiating an "attitude of gratitude." It wasn't long before the "river"

came together to hang on the wall in the commons area.

Many of you have already seen the River, heard about it during worship and contributed something out of your own gratitude to it. All of you are encouraged to use the supplies on the table by the River to add at least one thing for which you are grateful each Sunday while it is there. Let's try to keep the gratitude level rising and overflow the banks of the River!

## The Gardens at FPC Need You!

Even though the Memorial Garden is currently covered in snow and ice, spring is just around the corner and that means time to begin gardening at FPC. Did you know that the Memorial Garden Committee, with the help of numerous volunteers, maintains The Memorial Garden, the berm area, the front sign garden, the

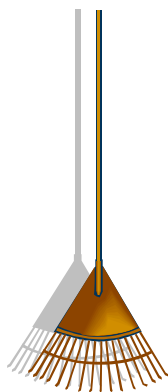


Bell Tower garden and the flower pots? Please consider helping by weeding, watering or planting this year's gardens. For more

information on how you can help, please contact Kathy Doyle at 651/269-5847.

## Spring Clean-Up

It's time once again to clean up the church grounds and spruce up the sanctuary—mark your calendars for Saturday morning, April 30. We'll begin the day with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and be finished by noon. So, when the day comes, grab your rakes, pruning shears, and work gloves and come help out. Many hands will make the work go quickly and be much more fun for everyone. Come for the whole morning or for whatever time you can spare. We'll be grateful for your time and help.



## Volunteer Recognition Sunday

Part of our effort to practice the "discipline of gratitude" during this Lenten season is an attempt to be more mindful of all the gifts we have and all the blessings we share in this congregation. We are a vital, thriving community of faith in this little corner of God's creation, and that reality is certainly something to celebrate! The health and strength of First Presbyterian Church is due to the abundant and generous gifts of many, many people who make our ministry successful, our educational programs effective, our worship services wonderful, our mission and outreach fruitful, and our congregation welcoming. No one person, program or committee makes it all happen, but as we work together it is amazing what we can do! The gifts and talents and time

and energy of so many individuals go into the day to day and week to week and year by year efforts of our life together, and we want to remember and thank one another for everything from the smallest to the biggest commitments of the



volunteers in our ministry. On Palm Sunday, April 17, the church staff is hosting the

fellowship time following worship as a partial recognition of all that is done by volunteers in our midst. Please join us for a special reception and time of fellowship and thanks together.

## Church World Service: Water For All

More than a billion people worldwide lack clean water, and more than 2.1 million people, most of them children, die each year from waterborne disease. Water cannot be taken for granted.



Some experts predict that by the middle of this

century people in over 60 countries could face water shortages. At the heart of the threat to future water supplies is the destruction of ecosystems. For example, over half the countries in Africa are "water-stressed." Lack of access to water affects the life of vulnerable populations, making the simple task of collecting water a tremendous burden.

Church World Service supports communities in obtaining and managing their own potable water supplies and watershed sources. We regard water as a responsibility of public service, not as a resource for the few who can afford to pay. This means preventing policies that narrow the range of available options such as trade rules that encourage inappropriate privatization and commercialization of services and promoting the ability of local communities to develop their own solutions.

Our giving to *End Hunger Now* for the next quarter of April-June, will support *Church World Service: Water For All* projects around the world.

More than a billion people worldwide lack clean water! Please help as you are able.

(Photo: Paul Jeffrey/ACT-CWS)



You may well ask, what’s been happening? In one short week in March, FPC sent off \$1,265 to Church World Service that will buy 253 blankets for which you

generously donated money; a total of 24 youth and adults helped pack 139 boxes of nutritious food at Feed My Starving Children which is enough for a bit over 30,000 meals; we ate pancakes, listened to great music, danced and had a wonderful time and gave enough to be able to send \$440 to New Orleans to help with cleanup in the Gulf. You can be a part of “happenings” like these. Watch for places to plug into the fun and good feelings of being part of this caring congregation. Don’t wait to be asked ... volunteer!

## Bread for the World

We have the opportunity in April to tell our representatives in Washington that we expect them to follow through on the promises made to fund poverty issues. Letters to sign will be out in the Commons on



April 3 and 10. Bread for the World has been an active motivator for the development goals of erasing the crushing poverty in our world. We may

have poverty in this country, but nothing as severe as families suffer in other countries.

In addition, Rev. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World since 1991, will be the keynote speaker at the Global Poverty Summit on Saturday, April 2 at Christ Church International in Minneapolis (3015 13th Avenue South). The event runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.). A free-will offering will be taken to help cover the costs. The event is open to all who wish to learn more about what is happening and what we can do. Bring your own lunch or purchase one at the event for \$5.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

We are not without places where our One Great Hour of Sharing can be used. This Easter season our grateful response will continue to help with medical and health issues as well as seeds and tools in Haiti. Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Presbyterian Self-Development services, water projects are also being addressed. We are called to share in the ongoing recovery, and doing so, bring hope to thousands of displaced Haitians.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected on Easter Sunday.

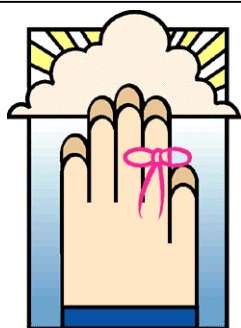
## Road Clean-Up

For a number of years, FPC has been committed to cleaning up the section of Wentworth Ave. between



Robert St. and Delaware Ave. in West St. Paul. A small number gather four times a year to accomplish this task—and would welcome the help of others.

Our first road clean up in 2011 is scheduled for Saturday, April 23 starting at 10:00 a.m. Meet in the south parking lot of St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church (1575 Charlton Ave., WSP); we should be done before noon.



These members and friends of FPC have had surgery, been hospitalized or ill in recent weeks: Bill Beyer, Willard Lee, Pam Davenport, Bona Faye Venburg, Bailey Huettl, Phyllis Krefting, Allen Fisk, Mary Lough, Dean Stoven, Bonnie Milbrandt, and Rich Quinn.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Ron and Patty Gnetz on the death of Ron’s sister, Marce, February 11, 2011.

The congregation also extends its sympathy to Eileen Lindberg on the death of her nephew-in-law, Russell, February 23, 2011.



Thank you to members of the congregation for your cards, calls and prayers during my recent hospitalization.

~ Phyllis Krefting

**First Presbyterian Church  
of South St. Paul**

*"All Are Welcome Here"*

535 20th Avenue North  
South St. Paul MN 55075

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Education For All at 8:30 a.m.

Worship Celebration at 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and Fellowship at 11:00 a.m.



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***Tower Views***

is a monthly publication of the  
First Presbyterian Church, South St. Paul, MN

**Rev. Katie Estes Collins**

**Rev. Tom Watson**

Pastors

**Mary Love**

Administrative Assistant

***Tower Views Deadline***

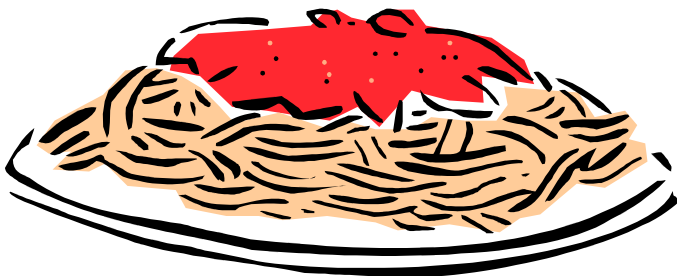
*March 15, 2011*

*For events taking place in April 2011*

# Senior Brunch

## Sunday, May 1

~ a special event for those at least 70 years young ~



Italian dinner with  
entertainment

*Invitations coming soon to your home!*