

# Tower Views

Volume 23, Issue 8

August 1-31, 2011

Join us for a  
**Pancake Breakfast**  
after worship on:  
**August 7 & August 28**

*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.*



Proceeds from the breakfasts will go toward mission projects supported by the church.

Breakfasts are sponsored by the Mission Committee.

## 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

This summer has been another one of great travels. My husband Mike and I were able to get away for two glorious weeks on a road trip to Canada. We have a goal to visit all of the provinces and were able to cover a lot of Ontario and Quebec on this trip. Over 3,000 miles later in the Honda Fit and we were once again back home. Along the way I made a simple, but profound realization. The initial reason many of us take a vacation in the first place is to get away, and I was no exception. Get away from our routine, regular lives. Get away from seeing the same roads, places and faces. Get away from our jobs and responsibilities. I was ready for some of that! However, about halfway to two-thirds through the vacation, I started missing those same things that I wanted to get away from. Simple things that I take for granted, like cooking a meal in my own kitchen and washing the dishes afterwards. Like knowing where I'm going (most of the time!) when I get in my car. Like coming to church and seeing familiar, friendly faces welcoming me and depending on me to do my job. Don't get me wrong, the people of Canada were wonderful and the sights were grand, but it just felt so good to come HOME.

The idea of home can conjure up a lot of different images and emotions. It may be a safe place for you, or being in familiar surroundings. It may be the people, your friends and family that make it feel like home, or it may also be something less tangible, like a feeling of belonging. I know that as soon as I got home from vacation, I went right into nesting mode. I cleaned, I did laundry, and I stocked the house with fresh, good food. I rearranged my office and organized my music and papers. It was a lot of work, but it felt good. Then I made another realization: you can't just sit around and wait for your house to feel like a home. It takes work, involvement and dedication to give you that sense of belonging where you are.

There are so many great ways to become involved at First Presbyterian Church. As the summer winds down, take some time to look at how you may "nest" here. It will be worth it. I know that as I continue my professional travels this year with The Rose Ensemble, I always look forward to coming back and sharing music and fellowship with all of you. I hope that wherever you may have been able to go this summer, even if it was just a day trip to the lake to cool off, you, too will be able to come back to First Presbyterian Church and feel at home.

### Just a Few Ways to Feel at Home at FPC

- Join a choir or bell ensemble
- Stay for the lunch after worship on Covenant Sunday
- Participate in the weekly Bible Study and/or monthly Book Club
- Help package meals at Feed My Starving Children
- Pick up the monthly Neighbors, Inc. grocery list and donate needed items
- Attend a film on the first Friday of the month
- Rake up some leaves or clean the pews at the Fall Clean-Up
- Encourage your child or youth to attend events geared for them
- Pick up trash along Wentworth Ave. during the Road Clean-Up days
- Attend the Community Thanksgiving Eve Service
- Stay for the coffee time after worship each Sunday

## Worship Schedule

### August 7, 2011

8:30 a.m. Adult Education  
10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration  
11:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast  
*Ugandan Orphan Choir*

### August 14, 2011

#### Communion

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

### August 21, 2011

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

### August 28, 2011

8:30 a.m. Adult Education  
10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration  
11:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast

## Ugandan Orphans Choir

Sunday, August 7 is a date not to be missed in the worship life of First Presbyterian! Junior ambassadors from Uganda will be sharing their faith and their lives with us through music and dance in our 10:00 a.m. worship service. The



Ugandan Orphans Choir, part of the ministry of Childcare Worldwide, is made up of ten children between the ages of 8 and 12. They sing, play African drums, dance and share powerful stories of the work of God in their lives. They will present a 20 minute segment in our worship service that includes a video presentation of their home country, information about sponsoring children through their program, and lots of music and dance in colorful costumes. We will receive a special offering for the choir and welcome them to our pancake breakfast following the service. This is a great Sunday to bring a friend or extended family members to worship—don't miss it!

## Book Club

Join the Book Club on Saturday, August 13 at 8:30 a.m. at the church. A few books are still available through the church office. The selection for August is *Seabiscuit: An American Legend* by Laura Hillenbrand.

In her debut book, *Seabiscuit*, Laura Hillenbrand has written an exciting book that has already won the Triple Crown of publishing: runaway sales of a nonfiction sports book, nomination for the National Book Award Critics Circle Award, and a movie by Universal Studios.

The first paragraph of the preface sets the tone of the book. "In 1938, near the end of a decade of monumental turmoil, the year's number-one newsmaker was not Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Hitler, or Mussolini ... The subject of the most newspaper column inches in 1938 wasn't even a person. It was an undersized, crooked-legged racehorse named Seabiscuit. In the latter half of the Depression, Seabiscuit was nothing short of a cultural icon in America, enjoying adulation so intense and broad-based that it transcended sport." Driven by hunger, hope, and heart, Seabiscuit and his crew lived the rags-to-riches dream.

## Adult Education

This month we continue the curriculum *Saving Jesus Redux*, a DVD-based study from Living the Questions exploring what a credible Jesus looks like for the third millennium. Each week stands alone so you can attend at any time. Class begins Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the Knox Room. For questions on the series contact Pastor Tom Watson or Pastor Katie Estes Collins.



**August 7:** "Jesus' Program: The Kingdom of God"

**August 14:** "Jesus' Ministry of Compassion"

**August 21:** "Who Killed Jesus?"

**August 28:** "The Atonement"

**September 4:** "The Resurrection of Christ"

**September 11:** "Why Jesus Is Worth Saving"

## VBS On A Stick: Discovering God’s Love in the Great State of Minnesota

We’re trying something new this year—come make it work with us! When you think of Minnesota, do you think of lakes and loons, Spam and Salted Nut Rolls, the State Fair and snow days? We’re putting it all together into one great day for kids from 3 to 12 years old. A single-day Vacation Bible School program will be held on Saturday, August 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the church. Family, friends, neighbors and newbies are all welcome to learn and

grow with us for this day of Vacation Bible School on a stick! Registration forms are available in the church office and are due by August 20.



If you have questions or want to volunteer to help, call Sarah Zaiser at 651/210-8882 or Pastor Katie Estes Collins at 651/451-6223.

## Calling All Angels

Do you remember who taught you to say the Lord’s Prayer? Or to sing “Jesus Loves Me”? From whom did you first learn the stories of the Bible, and what church was really all about? Or are you still hoping to learn any of that?!? A few spots are available this fall on our children’s Sunday School teaching staff, and this just might be the year for you to play that significant role in the life of one

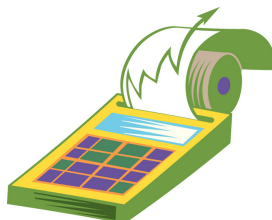


of our youngest disciples. We promise, as we baptize infants and children in this congregation, to help their parents nurture them in the faith. Sunday School is a great time to do just that! Classrooms have between 6 and 12 children each, are taught by teams of two or more, and curriculum, training and supplies are all provided. If you might feel called to help in this way, please talk to Jan Mahoney, chair of the Children’s Ministry committee, or to Pastor Katie Estes Collins. You’ll be glad you did, and so will God!

## Financial Update

It’s hard to imagine that summer is winding down and we will soon be talking about Fall programs and next year’s church budget. As we make the seasonal transition, there is some concern that we have experienced quite a significant drop in giving over June and July. Although it isn’t unusual to have a summer slump, we are currently over \$10,000 behind where we were last year in mid-July. On top of that, we have also committed to raising \$4,500 in additional revenue during 2011 if we

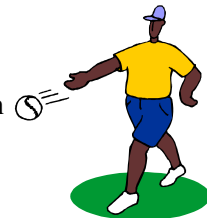
are to meet our budget. Thank you for maintaining your giving in the coming weeks and for considering an increase in your contribution level to help FPC-SSP meet this challenge.



~ Lois Glewwe, Financial Secretary

## Men’s Softball Team

With God all things are possible! If you haven’t heard by now, the Men’s softball team shattered their previous record of three wins by going 6-10 in the regular season and finishing out of last place for the first time in four years. Nine congregations made up the Inver Grove Heights Church league and we managed to finish in 7<sup>th</sup> place. The more veteran players had to explain to some of our newer teammates how we could be so excited about only six victories. Then came the playoffs as we looked for our first ever playoff victory.



As this article is being written, we have playoff games scheduled for Monday, July 25. The first game at 8:00 p.m. is the Winner’s Bracket final. WHAT? That’s right, not only did we win our first ever playoff game against the second place team 13-11, but then proceeded to win our second ever playoff game by beating the third place team 16-3. So now we will play Bethel Baptist Church with the assurance that we will finish no less than 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Who knows, by the time you read this maybe there will be another trophy to go alongside our two kickball championships!

## Senior High Youth Pool Party

Wednesday,  
August 3  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
at the home of  
Abbey Luhrs



## Our End Hunger Commitment

How many weeks has it been since North Minneapolis suffered tornado damage? How long have roughly one-third of homes and businesses in Minot, ND been inundated with flood waters? How many months have approximately five million Pakistanis been homeless because of monsoon rains that covered 20% of their homeland? And what does any of this have to do with us?

Whatever the cause, wherever the disaster, food, clean water and



shelter are absolute necessities to survival. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance actively works in resolving these kinds of life crushing situations by connecting locally and internationally with key organizations such as United Nations, World Food Program, Red Cross, FEMA, Church World Service and other faith-based groups.

The third and fourth quarters of our 2011 End Hunger giving will be devoted to these basic needs, close to home and for our sisters and brothers whom we have yet to meet. We all have some events in our

lives that may be difficult to deal with, but we can still turn on our faucets and have clean water for our families. Most of us have much more than a day's worth of provisions in our pantries and freezers and if not, there are local organizations to turn to for help. Are we able to empathize with those who have lost everything? Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance our End Hunger funds will help alleviate some of the misery. Someone once said, "Give 'til it hurts." That can be topped with "Give 'til it feels good!" It is our calling as Christians.

### Deacons & Elders Classes of 2012 & 2013

You are invited to a  
Potluck Picnic Supper and  
Joint Meeting

August 9 — 6:00 p.m.  
at the home  
of Kathy and John Junek  
11240 Alameda Court, IGH

Please RSVP to the church office  
no later than August 5  
and let us know what you will  
contribute to the meal:

Deacons—salads or desserts  
Elders —main dishes or beverages

### Intergenerational Choir on August 14

One Sunday only! All ages and  
abilities are welcome to come join  
us in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. to  
learn a

new fun  
and easy  
song or  
two to  
sing that  
morning



in the worship service. Take this  
opportunity to sing with your  
children or grandchildren as they  
just get back from camp. The more  
the merrier! Call Linda  
Kachelmeier for more information.

### August Is Undies and Socks Month

It's that time of year again ... time  
to shop for new school clothes. And  
if you would pick up an extra pair of  
socks or undies, boys' or girls', and  
bring them to the church to donate,  
someone will be smiling when they  
go to school with nice, new things  
that they weren't expecting.

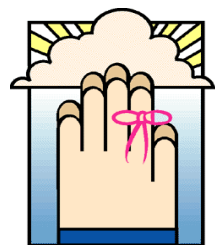
A laundry basket will be set out in  
the Commons during  
the month of August  
in which to put your  
purchases. Many of us  
can remember the

days of  
hand-  
me-

downs and what a  
treat it was to have  
something new.

Know that your  
donation will make  
someone else very

happy. Thank you from the Mission  
Committee.



PLEASE REMEMBER  
THESE FRIENDS IN  
**PRAYER**

These members and friends of FPC have had surgery, been hospitalized or ill in recent weeks: Willard Lee, Pam Davenport, Bona Faye Venburg, Pauline Koenig, Betty Robinson, and Phyllis Krefting.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Mary Jo and John Roberts on the death of their grandchild, June 8, 2011.

**First Presbyterian Church**

535 20th Avenue North  
South St. Paul MN 55075  
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Fax: 651/451-3866  
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Adult Education at 8:30 a.m.  
Worship celebration at 10:00 a.m.  
Coffee and Fellowship at 11:00 a.m.

**Address Service  
Requested**

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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***

***August 15, 2011***  
***For events taking place in September 2011***



Mark your calendars –  
**Covenant Sunday**  
**Sept. 18, 2011**

Worship at 10:00 a.m. with the Festival Choir & communion  
Followed by a special lunch,  
Entertainment by the band *Sheltered Reality*,  
Tie-dying stations & Children's activities

*“For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace.”*  
*Isaiah 55:12*

