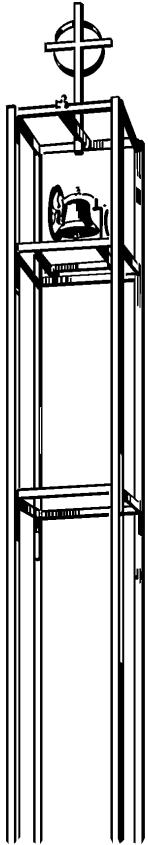


# Tower Views

Volume 24, Issue 2

February 1-29, 2012



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.

## Campership Brunch February 26, 2012



All are invited for pancakes, French toast, sausage, juice and coffee in Fellowship Hall following worship.

A silent auction will also take place. Proceeds from the morning will help defray the cost for children and youth going to summer camp at Presbyterian Clearwater Forest.

## 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**

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#### **Mary Love**

Administrative Assistant  
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#### **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

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." This has to be my favorite command and promise in all of Scripture. I definitely prefer it to: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." If I am weary and carrying heavy burdens, and if I must be honest I am, then taking up my cross on top of that is just about the last thing that I want to do. But then again, maybe it isn't until I have put down all of the burdens I have been carrying around, and there are many and they are heavy, only then can I take up my cross and follow Jesus.

Over the past 5 months, our adult education program held at 8:30 on Sunday mornings has been tackling the very important and very broad concept of peacemaking: in our world, in our nation, in our community, in our Church, in our families and in our own individual lives. The Adult Ministry Committee has brought in fascinating speakers, famous and not-so-famous, and helped us all to participate in thoughtful, lively and respectful conversation. This has deepened our faith as Christians and our understanding as human beings.

In January, the focus of our discussion was on the role of forgiveness in peacemaking. It raised all sorts of questions about who can forgive, how do we seek forgiveness and what can be forgiven. Examples ranged from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa to the Amish Community in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania to the more personal stories of how an alcoholic father and husband nearly devastated one woman's life. Can we forgive the pain and suffering caused us by another individual, a family system or a national government? Can we forgive ourselves? Can we forgive God? Can God forgive us?

I believe the answer to all of these questions is "Yes". And I believe that forgiveness is the rest Jesus offers for our weariness and the relief from the heavy burdens we are carrying around with us. At one time in our lives, most likely many times, we have been hurt by someone or even some institution, unfortunately that too often includes the Church. We have been made to feel ashamed, betrayed, ignored, abused. We have been told through words and actions that we are not good enough or as good as we are supposed to be, that we do not deserve the same dignity and basic human rights as those in positions of privilege, power and authority. Whether it was something one of our parents said to us when we were children or an ecclesiastical law or economic policy, we carry this pain and our anger and resentment with us. And it is our choice what we do with these heavy burdens.

We can let them wear us down. We can keep them bottled up inside of us and watch them eat away at us, destroy our relationships and spill out into just about every other aspect of our lives. We can complain to everyone but those people we hold responsible and blame for the hurt we believe we have suffered as a result. Or we can forgive. Forgive those who have wronged us, who have burdened us with the pain and sadness, anger and resentment we have been carrying for so long. We can seek and hopefully receive forgiveness from those individuals and groups of people we have hurt and betrayed and abused along our own journeys, but if not from them directly, we can always seek and receive forgiveness from our God whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting and has the power to offer us new lives filled with peace and joy and love. May we all find the courage to forgive as we have been forgiven and as we lay down our heavy burdens find rest for our weary souls. Peace. ~ Tom

## Worship Schedule

### February 5, 2012

8:30 a.m. Education For All  
10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration  
11:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship  
*Souper Bowl of Caring*

### February 12, 2012

#### Communion

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

### February 19, 2012

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

### February 22, 2012

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service  
with Communion

### February 26, 2012

#### Lent I

8:30 a.m. Education For All  
10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration  
11:00 a.m. Campership Brunch

## Ash Wednesday Worship

The Lenten journey of reflection and repentance in preparation for the Festival of the Resurrection begins Ash Wednesday,



February 22. Our worship service will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary and will include communion, music by the Festival Choir and Voices of the Heart, and the imposition of ashes.

## Wednesday Evenings in Lent

We are pleased to return to a Wednesday evening worship service for the season of Lent this year. Beginning on Wednesday, February 29, and continuing each week through the season, a brief service of prayer, music and scripture will be held on Wednesdays in the Sanctuary from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. Our reflections will focus on projected images of the artwork of He Qi, a contemporary Chinese local artist with an international reputation. Known for his bright colors and modern interpretations, He Qi seeks to combine traditional Biblical themes with fresh understandings of the texts. We will

share contemporary music and informal reflections centered on his paintings which depict scenes from Holy Week and Easter. While dinner will not be provided prior to the services as in previous years, participants are welcome to bring their own suppers and share a time of food and fellowship in the North Commons before worship each week.



## Lent & Easter at a Glance

**Ash Wednesday Worship**  
Wednesday, Feb. 22 - 7:00 p.m.

**Lenten Worship Services**  
Wednesdays, Feb. 28 - March 28  
7:00 p.m.

**Special Mozart Music Sunday**  
Sunday, March 18 - 10:00 a.m.

**Palm / Passion Sunday Worship**  
Sunday, April 1 - 10:00 a.m.

**Maunday Thursday Service  
with communion**  
Thursday, April 5 - 7:00 p.m.

**First Friday Film Forum**  
Friday, April 6 - 7:00 p.m.  
*Passion of the Christ*

**Easter Morning Worship  
with Communion**  
Sunday, April 8 -  
8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

## Join Us This Summer For *Camp-In-A-Van*

As I sit and look out my window and wish the grass I could see was green, I remember that spring and summer are really a long way off ... BUT not really all that far off. Before you know it we'll be celebrating the end of the school year and then just as quickly the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. So we better start making plans, right? Pull out your calendars and add *Camp-in-a-Van* the week of July 9-13, 2012.

*Camp-in-a-Van* will be a full week of day camp fun (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) for your children (those who have just finished kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade) and will be led by three counselors from Presbyterian Clearwater Forest. What a great chance for younger kids to experience what camp will be like for them when they are older and for those uneasy about being away from home over night to see what they are missing!

We are asking for pre-registration starting on February 26 and are hoping to have about 40 children involved. If we don't fill those

openings with our own children from First Presbyterian, we will be inviting children from other Presbyterian and local churches to join in the fun. Please don't put off signing up those children you know would



LOVE this experience and miss out because we've filled openings with other kids! It's very exciting to bring a small piece of Presbyterian Clearwater Forest right to our doorstep. But, we need to know that you're on board! Please let us know by sending a \$25 deposit by March 31 non-refundable after that date). The total cost of the week has not been set yet, but will be based on the number of children attending. We hope to keep the cost under \$50 total.

For questions, please contact Pastor Katie Estes Collins or Jan Mahoney.

## Kid's Club Ice Skating Event

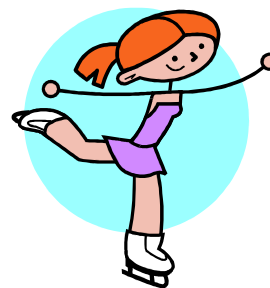
Have your kids been begging to do some winter activities? The lack of snow and cold has made getting outside on skating rinks and ponds nearly impossible so far this winter. Join us on Sunday, February 12, 2012 for some ice skating fun where it doesn't matter what the outside weather is like. We will be going to the Eagan Civic Arena (3870 Pilot Knob Road) to skate on their indoor ice rink during

the open skating session from 2:00 – 3:45 p.m. The cost is only \$2 for children and \$3 for adults.



There are bleachers to watch from if you don't skate and you only pay if you get on the ice. There is no age restriction, but the arena recommends that parents stay with less experienced children to assist in their learning. Additional services available: rental skates as small as youth size 6 for \$2 (quantities might be limited), skating aids (i.e. walkers) for \$2, and helmets (recommended but not

required) for \$1 rental fee. There is also a concession stand available with limited food and drink options. If we get enough



people interested we might even be able to use a locker room to store our belongings, so please let us know if you will be joining us by signing up on the kiosk or calling the church office.

### Families of Children and Youth: Mark Your Calendars!

#### **Kid's Club Ice Skating**

Sunday, Feb. 12 - 2:00 p.m.

#### **Middle and High School Youth Tubing at Badlands Sno-Park**

Sunday, Feb. 12 - 11:15 a.m.

#### **Campership Brunch**

Sunday, Feb. 26 - 11:00 a.m.

#### **Camp-in-a-Van**

Registration beginning Feb. 26  
Camp week - July 9-13

### Youth Snow Tubing

Senior high and middle school youth (6th—12th grade) will be conquering the hills of Badlands Sno



-Park in Hudson, Wisconsin on Sunday, February 12. Meet at church after the worship service and be ready

with your warm outdoor gear. We will stop at McDonald's in Hudson for a yummy gourmet lunch so bring money for lunch as well as \$15 for the tubing (cash or checks - they do not take credit cards). We plan on arriving back at the church around 5:00 p.m.

## First Friday Film Forum: *The Help*

Our First Friday Film Forum continues in February with the 2011



critically acclaimed movie *The Help*. Based on the #1 *New York Times* best seller by Kathryn Stockett, the film is about

the relationship between Eugenia “Skeeter” Phelan, a young white woman, and two black maids in the early 1960s in Jackson, Mississippi. Skeeter is a journalist who embarks on writing a book from the point of view of “the help.” In doing so, she breaks society’s rules and exposes the racism the maids are faced with in working for white families.

*The Help* (rated PG-13) is an inspirational and empowering story starring Emma Stone, Viola Davis,

Bryce Dallas Howard and Octavia Spencer (Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actress).

All are invited to join us on Friday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the theater room of the CE wing. Popcorn and beverages will be served during the movie. Dessert and fellowship will follow in the Commons.

Mark your calendars now for our March feature film on Friday, March 2 when we will be showing the *Ideas of March*.

## Book Club Selection

The Saturday morning Book Club will meet in the library at church on February 11 at 8:30 a.m.

In keeping with adult education’s peace making theme, the book group is reading Tim O’Brien’s critical acclaimed and celebrated classic *In the*

*Lake of the Woods*.

This riveting novel of love



and mystery from the author of *The Things They Carried* examines the lasting impact of the twentieth century’s legacy of violence and warfare, both at home and abroad. When long-hidden secrets about the atrocities he committed in Vietnam come to light, a candidate for the U.S. Senate retreats with his wife to a lakeside cabin in northern Minnesota. Within days of their arrival, his wife mysteriously vanishes.

All are welcome to participate. Books are available in the church office or through your local library. For questions, contact the office or Ruth Krueger.

## Lesson on Forgiveness

On Sunday morning, February 5, we will have an extraordinary adult education opportunity when our guest speakers will be Mary Johnson and Oshea Israel and their powerful story of forgiveness. In 1993, Oshea Israel was a teenage gang member in Minneapolis. One night at a party, he got into a fight with Laramiun Byrd, Mary Johnson’s only child, pulled a gun, and shot and killed him. Convicted of second-degree murder, Israel was sentenced to 25 years in

prison. Twelve years after his sentencing, Johnson asked to meet her son’s killer to see if she could forgive him. She could and she did. Having served 17 of his 25 year sentence, Oshea was released from prison about 2 years ago. Their story of forgiveness and reconciliation has been told on national television and print media and is one you will not want to miss. Join us in the Knox Room at 8:30 a.m. on February 5 for a lesson on forgiveness.

## Per Capita - \$31.63 for 2012

Per capita is the amount of money each Presbyterian church pays to the presbytery, synod and General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for every active member of the church (*once your child is confirmed they are considered an active member*). Per capita funds a broad range of ministry and programming throughout our denomination. With these gifts we mutually share the costs of connection and communication, mission and outreach, leadership training and curriculum development and worship renewal. The current breakdown of the per capita apportionment is as follows: \$6.63 goes to the General Assembly, \$5 to

the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and \$20 to the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.

The 2012 per capita amount of \$31.63 is considered outside of our regular giving. What doesn’t come in from individual gifts must be paid for through the church funds which keeps us from other ministry and programs. Please send in your portion as soon as possible. Write your check out to First Presbyterian Church and mark “per capita” on the memo line.



## Sanctuary Flowers

Every week our congregation enjoys beautiful flower arrangements that are displayed on the chancel. The 2012 sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board on the wall outside of the library. If you would like to share the beauty of flowers with others, please sign up for a week. The cost is \$40 a Sunday. Checks should be made out to FPC with "Flowers" on the memo line. Place the check in the offering or mail it to the church office. When you sign up for a Sunday, please indicate if the flowers are "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone. Also indicate if you will take the flowers home with you at

the conclusion of the service or if you would like the Deacons to deliver them to a homebound member of the congregation.

There are a lot of open slots for 2012. We will not have flowers in the sanctuary unless someone has signed up, so please consider signing up for a week (or two) in 2012.



## Easter Flowers

Spring is on the way even though we have been enjoying a lot of nice weather this winter. So, to prepare yourself, why not order some beautiful Easter flowers? The plants will be used to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 8. You can choose to take the plant home after the 10:00 a.m. worship service or give them to a homebound church member. A member of the Worship Committee will be taking orders in the Commons on March 4, 11 and 18. Stop by the table after worship and order your flowers or contact Elizabeth Monroe. We ask that you pay please for your flowers when you order.



## First Presbyterian designated an "Earth Care Congregation"

On January 3, 2012 First Presbyterian Church was designated an "Earth Care Congregation" C (ECC) by the Environmental Ministries Division of the General Assembly Mission Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). In late 2011 a sub-committee of the Mission Committee was formed to help our congregation identify and coordinate efforts in active stewardship of our resources and the earth. The "Earth Care" Committee first conducted an audit of our current efforts in environmental conservation, education and outreach and completed the application process. Session approved the application and commitment document at the December 2011 meeting and it was submitted to the Environmental Ministries. That application has now been approved.

Designation as an ECC is a meaningful milestone, recognizing our good efforts to date. However, it is just the first step in an on-going

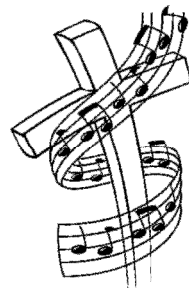


congregation-wide program to improve our stewardship of the earth, both here at home and in the broader world. This effort will seek the input and involvement of all committees and members of the congregation. You will be hearing more about the program and how you can get involved in the near future.

*"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it."* Psalm 24:1

## Festival Choir Retreat set for Sunday, Feb. 12

It will be "Mostly Mozart" this Lent and Easter! Please join the Festival Choir this season as we prepare selections from Mozart's infamous "Requiem" for Lent, as well as "Alleluja" from 'Exultate Jubilate' for Easter Sunday. Be a part of this powerful and joyous music.



A Festival Choir retreat to begin learning the music will be held following worship on Sunday, February 12. We will start with a soup lunch and will conclude by 2:00 p.m. Feel free to contact music director Linda Kachelmeier with any questions (651/587-9475 or [lindakachelmeier@yahoo.com](mailto:lindakachelmeier@yahoo.com)).

## Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 5 is *Souper Bowl Sunday*. When many of us are thinking of the football game and football parties that day, the youth of First Presbyterian Church would like you to think about hunger and hunger needs in our community. They are asking you to donate \$1 (or more) to the "Souper Bowl of Caring" as you leave the worship service on February 5.

The "Souper Bowl of Caring" is a national movement of young people working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. In the past 20 years, more

than \$81 million has been raised for local charities across the country.

The youth will hold soup pots out at the end of the worship service to collect your donations. All of the money (100% of it) will go directly to Neighbors, Inc. in South St. Paul to help with the hunger needs in our own community. Thank you!!



## Caring Hearts for the Homeless

Through the month of February the Mission Committee will be collecting hygiene products for those without a home of their own through HealthEast's Caring Hearts for the Homeless project. Please bring travel size care products such as tissues, lip balm, aspirin, hand lotion, soap or shampoo and place them in the bin located in the Commons. Or, if you prefer, a check made out to First Presbyterian Church with "Caring Hearts" on the memo line will also be graciously accepted. Thank you for helping others.

## Blood Drive Exceeds Expectations

The January 9 blood drive at FPC-SSP collected 38 units of blood, far exceeding the projection of 30 set by the Red Cross. Thanks to everyone who planned, recruited and donated. There was a great turn out and a wonderful result. Special thanks to Sue Lerfald, who provided lunch to the Red Cross workers. It was much appreciated. There is always a need for blood. If you missed this opportunity to give, please make the short drive down to the Red Cross Blood Center on Robert St. in St. Paul and donate there.

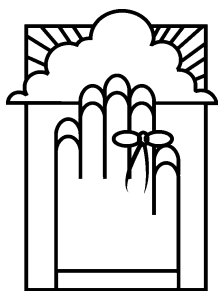
## Alternative Christmas Generosity

Thanks to all who participated in the 2011 Alternative Christmas! All six causes received gifts as a result of the congregation's giving. We



made a good start on filling Noah's ark with the variety of livestock purchased for Heifer International. Everything from bees to water buffalo were donated. Doctors without Borders will receive badly needed medicine, food, water supplies and tents.

Many children in the Project Home program will have new pajamas to wear in the new year and the young adult residents at Lincoln Place will be provided basic housewares to help them get established in their new independent living situation. The Chain of Lakes new church development will have new funds to help establish their adult education ministry. Finally, sales of the eco-friendly Chinook book will provide funds to support the Earth Care Congregation initiatives here at First Presbyterian. A total of \$3,445 was given. Thank you!



**PLEASE REMEMBER THESE FRIENDS IN PRAYER**

These members and friends of FPC have had surgery, been hospitalized or ill in recent weeks: Bob Ista and Lee Lauck.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

- Dave and Sue Hanson on the death of Dave's mother, Eloise
- Terry and Pam Davenport on the death of Terry's sister.
- Betty Miller on the death of her sister and brother-in-law.
- Julie Leas on the death of her brother, George.



We extend our deepest thanks to you, our church family, for the love, support, and expressions of

sympathy given to us following the death of Dave's mother. We are forever grateful. God bless you!

~ Dave, Sue, Eric and Bert Hanson

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

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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**

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First Presbyterian Church, South St. Paul, MN

**Rev. Katie Estes Collins**

**Rev. Tom Watson**

Pastors

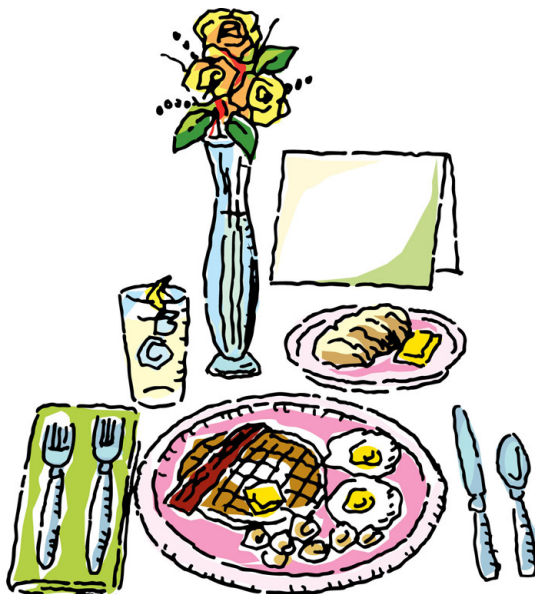
**Mary Love**

Administrative Assistant

**Tower Views Deadline**

January 15, 2012

For events taking place February 2012



# Deacon Sunday

March 11, 2011

Brunch in Fellowship Hall  
following worship

Egg bakes, assorted pastries, fruit salad,  
juice, milk & coffee will be served.

A freewill offering will be taken  
with the proceeds going to the Deacons'  
Emergency Assistance Fund.

This is the Deacons' main fundraiser,  
so please give generously.