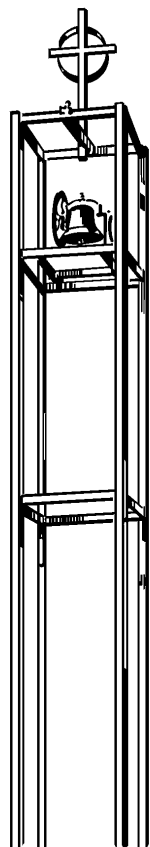


Tower Views

Volume 23, Issue 11

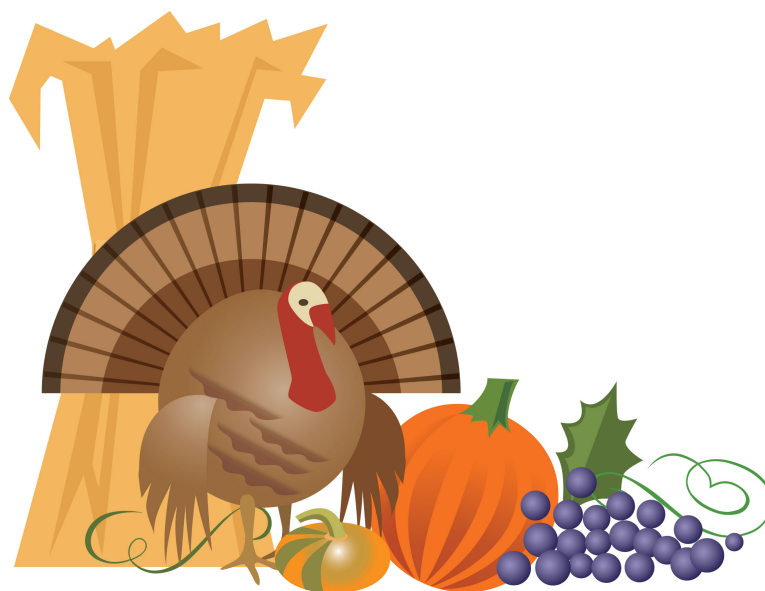
November 1-30, 2011



Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Wednesday, November 23, 7:00 p.m. at
First Presbyterian Church, SSP

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.



Food and financial offering received for Neighbors, Inc.

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

"Home is where the heart is." Pliny the Elder said it first, but that was so long ago that no one even remembers what he was all about. And plenty of others have said it since then, or said something so similar that we assume it was all from the same thought. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Jesus said that one, and we're talking and thinking and focusing on the sense of home that this church is for each of us as we consider our pledges and commitments to the 2012 budget of the congregation and the ongoing ministry we are all involved in here. So if home is where the heart is, and where our treasure is, our heart will be also, does that mean that our treasure belongs here at home? It's a little convoluted perhaps, but you get the idea! Another way to go about it might be to say, instead of 'put your money where your mouth is,' how about if we put our treasure where our hearts are most at home?

Some of us have been home here for a long time—raised here as children, raised our own children here, now watching them raise their own children in this church. That's a real home! It's a gift to have that long history in a church, to know what the floor looked like several layers down, and remember when the building was half this size or even down the street at Fifth & Marie. Some of us have made a home here without all those ties—found friends and connections and made commitments over the years until it became our home. We may not know the former location of the church office or the last time the nursery was painted, but we've shared in many songs and prayers, many parties and programs, and all of that has made it our home. And some of us have just barely arrived

to make this place our new home. We bring new stories and fresh hopes and no pre-conceived notions about how it has to be done or who has to do it! And what a gift to this home that will be.

What makes a church into a home? Is it a feeling when you walk in the door, is it something in particular that has happened here for you, or is it still a hope that you carry in your heart? When we volunteer with Project Home, opening our doors and building to make a temporary home for families in our community who have no place to live, does that transform this place into a home? Or when you serve coffee after worship, ring bells or sing in the choir, fill emergency food packets at Feed My Starving Children, pull weeds in the Memorial Garden or water the front flower pots, when you pray for someone facing surgery, or request prayers for your own healing and wholeness, does any of that create a sense of home for you? Home is indeed where your heart is, and making this church into the home it is and can be for so many children of God takes a lot of heart. The challenge before us, in this continuing economic struggle, is to make sure that we don't take our home for granted and let it slip away. There are bills to pay, mouths to feed, doors to open and gifts to share, all of which help to make this church into the home we know and love. Please consider prayerfully how you can contribute in the coming year to place your heart here at home. Paul said to the Ephesians, "Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is." May that be so for each one of us.

Worship Schedule

November 6, 2011

All Saints' Sunday

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

November 13, 2011

Communion

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

November 20, 2011

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

November 27, 2011

Advent I

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

Remembered in Love

Sunday, November 6, 2011 is our annual All Saints' Day celebration in worship. This service is a special opportunity to remember all the



members and friends and family who have been received by God into the heavenly realm in the past year. The celebration features

the lighting of candles and offering a prayer of thanksgiving for those who have died in our congregation since last All Saints' Sunday. We include in our prayer those for whom a funeral or memorial service was held here at our church as well as those for whom a service was conducted elsewhere by our pastors. We also offer the opportunity for other loved ones to be remembered following the list of names, and invite anyone to come forward and light a candle at that time. We hope that this observance has a healing and comforting effect on all our spirits, as we remember and give thanks for the saints in our midst. Our intent in this service, which has at least 1,200 years of Christian tradition behind it, is to reaffirm the Easter faith while tenderly recalling loved ones to whom we've recently said goodbye, that they might begin their new life with the Lord.

Adult Education-Peacemaking

November 6: Tim Penny - "Civil Discourse; War is Politics by Other Means"

Angry epithets and war-inspired metaphors dominate our political dialogue establishing a new axiom: Politics is war by other means. Can the American experiment of self-governance survive and our social and economic systems prosper when political parties seek battlegrounds instead of common ground?

Tim Penny is a former Minnesota State Senator and U.S. Congressman, a Senior Fellow at the U of M Humphrey Institute and President/CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. He authored three books: *Common Cents*; *The 15 Biggest Lies in Politics*; *Payment Due*.

November 13: Sarah Elkin - "The House on Lange Strasse: Remembering and Reconnecting after the Holocaust"

Sarah Elkin visited the home in Germany that her father left to escape the Holocaust and attended the opening of a museum named for her father's cousin who perished at Auschwitz. She will reflect on her family's stories and stories of German citizens who reached out to the Jewish families who once lived in their town.

Sarah Elkin earned a BA in Psychology at Trinity University in

Texas, and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota. She is a psychologist at Friendly Hills Middle School.

November 20: Sandra Pappas - "A Discussion on the Role of Women as Leaders and Peacemakers."

Three women have won the Noble Peace Prize; in Israel women head two of four major parties; women are significant in the Arab Spring; a series on Women, War & Peace is now airing on PBS. Women are not new to peacemaking. From the time of ancient Greece, women have promoted peace. Learn about a new effort at St Catherine's University to promote women's leadership in peacemaking.

Senator Sandy Pappas is a long-standing advocate for human rights; fighting for women, children, immigrants and other vulnerable groups. This work has included passing legislation requiring the MN Pension Board to divest funds from companies complicit in the genocide in Darfur, Sudan and authoring a resolution proclaiming April as Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month.

November 27 (1st Sunday in Advent): TBA

Senior High Youth Events

October 30, November 6, 13 & 20: Wreath sales



Sign up with Rachael Nelson to work at the table selling Christmas wreaths and swags Sunday mornings after worship.

Sunday, November 27: Wreath Distribution

Meet at the table in the hallway at the south entrance before and after the worship service to help distribute wreaths.

Saturday, November 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Wreath Making and Adopt-A-Family

Meet at church at 8:30 a.m. the Saturday after Thanksgiving and we will car pool to Brad's workshop to assemble the swags and wreaths. Lunch will be provided. After we've loaded the trailer and swept out the shop we will go shopping for Adopt-A-



Family. Please bring money to contribute for the shopping. We will return to the Nelson house to wrap the gifts and plan to be finished by 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 13 at 11:30 a.m.: Parent/Youth Mission Trip Informational Meeting

Ninth through twelfth grade youth who may be interested in going on the summer 2012 work camp trip are invited to bring a parent and attend a short informational meeting in the Knox Room beginning at 11:30 a.m. Where are we going and what will we be doing? What are the dates and who else is going and what will it cost? All these questions and more will be answered at this meeting—please plan to attend! This annual trip cannot succeed without the support of youth families and the whole congregation, so your input is strongly desired.

Sunday, November 13 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.: Dinner and Game Night

We will meet at the church for dinner and games—bring your favorite game!

Let Us Break Bread Together: Communion

A special workshop is being planned for 3rd grade—6th students and their parents to provide some concentrated time together to think and learn about the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in our Presbyterian tradition and practice. While our communion table is open and available to all baptized persons and we encourage everyone to participate in the



sacrament each time we observe it, we recognize that the worship service itself and our regular Sunday School time doesn't offer enough time to provide deeper understandings of this holy act. It has been the practice of this congregation to offer an occasional workshop at a special time for



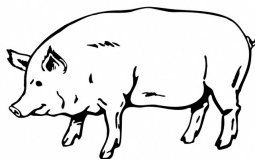
children and their parents, to more fully address this topic and assist families in their spiritual

development together. Come join us on Saturday, November 19 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm as we learn about the origin of the Sacrament, discuss how we participate and what it can mean, and then bake some bread together that will be used in worship a few weeks later! Please sign up on the kiosk in the Commons or call the church office to reserve a place by November 13 if you and your child choose to participate.

What's so BIG about a PIG?

Save your quarters and drop them into our Heifer Project "Peace Pipe" at the head of the stairs in the Education wing—the Sunday school children are raising money for a pig through Heifer Project as their offering this year! Heifer Project provides livestock and other gifts to needy families in this country and around the world in an effort to help people help themselves. We collect quarters in the plastic tube and watch the stack grow and grow...a full column equals \$120 and will

purchase a big pig for a family in need. They receive training and support in raising their pig, and promise to pass on the first offspring to someone else in their community, so the gift goes on. Encourage our kids in their effort to reach out and help others—add your quarters and assist in the big pig collection!



First Friday Film Festival

Join with other youth and adults on Friday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m. for another attempt at a First Friday Film Forum! We didn't draw an



audience for "The Shawshank Redemption" last month, but we're trying again with "Pieces of April" this month. Popcorn and drinks are provided as the movie is shown, and dessert and coffee will be offered to enhance our discussion afterward. We view the movie

together in our own 24-seat theater in the Education Wing of the church building, and invite you to enter the front door of the church and walk through to the CE wing or enter through the doors off Fellowship Hall and walk upstairs immediately to the movie room. "Pieces of April" was released in 2003 and stars Katie Holmes and Oliver Platt in a quirky tale of Thanksgiving dinner gone awry. In a poor neighborhood somewhere in New York City, April Burns and her boyfriend Bobby are preparing to receive April's dying mother and estranged family for a holiday meal.

While Bobby tries to borrow a suit for the occasion, April realizes that her stove is broken and desperately tries to find a neighbor that will let her roast the turkey so she does not fail (again!) with her family. Meanwhile, in a suburb of Pennsylvania, her dysfunctional family is preparing to travel to New York. While driving, the relationship between the Burns and their black-sheep daughter April is disclosed through the conversations between her father Jim, her resented mother Joy, her brother, her sister and her grandmother.

The Great Presbyterian Snow Out

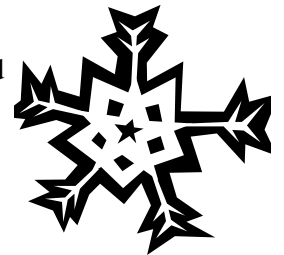
No Minnesotan likes to see the words in print but ... **Winter Is Coming.** There, it's been said. OK, ... take a deep breath, hold it, now release. Better. No need to panic!

With the arrival of winter there is also a deeply personal opportunity to give to someone else. Every winter our church teams with DARTS to provide snow shoveling to some of the elderly and handicapped people in our community. Without this service these folks would be at risk for broken hips or becoming unable to leave their homes for periods of time during the winter. They contact

DARTS because they have no where else to turn for help.

This is not a commitment to give lightly. Every time it snows two or more inches, it means our volunteers have their own shoveling and someone else's to do and that's not easy here in MN. But, the emotional rewards are also pretty substantial. As Christians we have to find ways to pass the love of God onto others. There is nothing like an elderly person coming to the door telling you that they couldn't get to the grocery store if not for your efforts to make you aware of that love.

Does your family want a different way to give to another person this winter? Are you retired and can talk a friend or two into a winter project? Can your church committee take on a project like this? The mildly aching muscles will be worth it. We will be out in the Commons soon looking for volunteers—look for the snow gear and come talk to us.



Christmas Wreaths

The senior high youth group will be selling Christmas wreaths October 30 through November 20. There will be a table in the Commons each Sunday with youth available to take your order. You can also contact any member of the Youth Committee or the church office to place your order. For sale will be a 25" wreath for \$15, 36" wreath for \$25, and swags for \$15. Wreaths will be distributed at

the south door on Sunday, November 27 before and after the service. Proceeds go toward the 2012 senior high work camp trip. Thanks!



Like to play cards or games? Then join us Friday, November,



11, in the Commons. We'll teach Whist, a fun, easy to learn progressive card game, to those interested. Not a whist fan? Then bring your favorite game. Bring a snack to share; Deacons will provide beverages. The fun begins at 6:30.



The Twin Cities Hunger Initiative presents the *Walk to End Hunger*, a large-scale public event the week of Thanksgiving at the Mall of America. The event includes a food drive to collect non-perishable food items and a family-friendly Walk on Thanksgiving morning from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. The entire 5K route is equal to six laps around the first floor of the MOA. Walkers are welcome to walk as much or as little as they like. Activities and entertainment will take place at three locations along the Walk route. For easy access to Registration that morning, park in the East parking ramp and enter via the East entrance.

Neighbor's Inc. is forming a Walk Team and they welcome Neighbors' supporters to be a part. Flyers are available on the Welcome Table in the Commons. You can also register online at www.walktoendhunger.org/neighborsmn to join Neighbors' Walk Team, start your own Walk Team, donate money or sign up to be a volunteer.



Thanksgiving Dinner in a Bag

At a time of the year when our tastebuds and bellies anticipate a groaning table of turkey with all the trimmings, we can't help but think of all the individuals and families in our own community who do not have the means to celebrate Thanksgiving in the same way we do. We can make a difference, without much effort at all! On Sunday, November 6 after worship we will distribute grocery bags with a simple shopping list attached. All we need to do is fill the bag with only the items on the attached list and bring it back to church the following Sunday, November 13.

Union Gospel Mission will park a truck in our lot that morning to receive your full grocery bags, and thousands of brothers and sisters in Christ will enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner with our help. Please plan to fill a bag and make someone's meal—and their year. Thank you!



Youth Ministry Committee Members Needed!

The Youth Ministry Committee is looking for parents of youth, grandparents of youth, friends of youth or even youth members themselves to join this awesome and important group. The committee meets once a month and is responsible for the programs and planning for middle school, confirmation and senior high youth in this congregation. If you have ideas, energy, time, ability, dreams or the inclination to assist in the youth ministry of FPC-SSP, please contact Patty Bourgoïn or the pastors to volunteer.



Soup's On!

The chill of fall is in the air once again and that means it is perfect weather for a good bowl of soup. As in years past, Presbyterian Women will have dehydrated soup packets for sale. Three varieties are available—chicken wild rice, beef barley, and Italian pasta. The cost is \$3.50 each or three packets for \$10. Soup packets make a great stocking stuffer and also freeze well so they can be used throughout the year.



To order, contact Kittie Kisby or Lynda Horan or you may place your order

online at soupbykittie@aol.com. Proceeds from church member sales support the Presbyterian Women's mission efforts. Thank you for your continued support.

Maybelle Smith Endowment Fund

Dear friends of First Presbyterian Church,

Enclosed is a check for \$45,000 to establish the Maybelle Smith Endowment Fund at First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul as a part of the legacy of First United Methodist Church.

In 1992 First United Methodist Church received an estate gift from Maybelle Smith. \$35,000 was received to establish a perpetual fund known as The Pastoral Education Fund. It was her desire that annually the pastor, spouse and children, have an opportunity to travel to enhance his/her knowledge of Scripture and Christian education. This was to be available for pastors after they had served the congregation for a minimum of 24 months. The intent

of Miss Smith was to provide opportunity for the pastor to be renewed and energized and to bring that energy, experience and stories back to the congregation in ways that revitalized and renewed the congregation.

As First United Methodist Church finds its doors closing in 2011, it is our desire that this fund be continued in a way that fosters the intent of Maybelle Smith for revitalizing and renewal of the congregation as part of the legacy to the congregation to which she belonged. \$35,000 is to be considered principal and invested as an endowment and \$10,000 is available for use according to the guidelines adopted by the Session in August 2011. The intent of this

fund is to further congregational revitalization and renewal. This may include providing for continuing education opportunities for lay leaders, providing training, coaching, travel opportunities or sabbatical breaks for clergy, bringing in speakers or funding new programs that will revitalize or renew the congregation.

We pray God's blessings upon your future ministry and pray that this gift will be a help in fostering your vitality and ministry as a congregation.

On behalf of the congregation of First United Methodist Church,
The Rev. Dr. Deb DeMeester
Interim Pastor

Neighbors, Inc. In New Location

On Monday, October 20, 2011, Neighbors, Inc. opened for business in their new building at 222 Grand Avenue West in South St. Paul. Their previous facility on 13th Avenue was old and overcrowded, so there was much excitement when moving day finally arrived.

The capital campaign to pay for the building and move is going strong and Neighbors fully expects to have raised over 60% of the \$2.5 million needed by year end. Contributions are always welcome.

Neighbors, Inc., established by local churches in 1992, is a non-profit, social service agency serving Northern Dakota County.

Neighbors provides emergency assistance and supportive assistance programs including providing transportation for seniors, a food shelf, and the "Love Your Neighbor" holiday program. The Clothes Closet also associated with Neighbors is open to the public.



Interested in Membership at FPC?

A New Member Class will be held on Sunday, November 13, starting at 11:30 a.m. We will meet in the Knox Room to learn more about our congregation and membership in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Attendance does not obligate you to join, but will hopefully help you in making that decision. We will meet until approximately 1:00 p.m. with a light lunch to be served during our time together. Those who decide to become active members will meet with the Session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 17, and then will be introduced to the congregation during the worship service on Sunday, November 20. If you can't make all those dates you can still become a member. Please contact either Pastors Tom or Katie if you are interested. Childcare can be arranged if you notify us in advance.



These members and friends of FPC have had surgery, been hospitalized or ill in recent weeks: Eleanor Twining, Bob Shannon, and Betsy Nelson.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Blair Reynolds and Emilie LeCompte on the death of their father, Jerry Reynolds.

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

"All Are Welcome Here"

535 20th Avenue North
South St. Paul MN 55075

Phone: 651/451-6223

Fax: 651/451-3866

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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

November 15, 2011

For events taking place December 2011

**2011 Advent &
Christmas Music**

Listen for special music
from the British Isles
from all of our musical
groups here at FPC
throughout the season of
Advent and Christmas.

