

Tower Views

Volume 23, Issue 9

September 1-30, 2011

Covenant Sunday September 18, 2011

*Celebrate and Connect
with old and new friends
as we begin the program year*

Adult Education 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School Open House 9:00 a.m.

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Followed by a
pot luck picnic,
t-shirt tie-dying,



balloon
animals,

face painting, and
entertainment by the
percussion ensemble
Sheltered Reality



*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

You can pick your friends, but you can't pick your family. Or so the saying goes. At some level that depends on how you define family.

Over the past year, I have waited and wondered, worried and watched as my family has grown in size. I have rarely been as happy and satisfied in my life as when our little house in Como Park is full of people trying to squeeze by each other in the narrow hallways or trying to find enough chairs to fit around the dinner table; the sound of voices coming not from the television set, but from real life conversations between actual human beings floating out of the kitchen and the living room and through windows from the backyard patio; the happy squeals and frustrated cries of the most beautiful baby girl in the world and even the deafening howls, protective barking and jealous whimpering of an 8-year-old hound dog remind me of how wonderfully full and blessed my life is and continues to become.

At the end of July, our entire growing family (minus the hound dog) traveled down to Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin for the Annual Hein Family Reunion. Lisa's mother Donna is 1 of 14 children born to Benjamin and Clara Hein. When it came time at the reunion meeting (yes, meeting, and they are not even Presbyterians) to update the family tree, the most recently born member of the family and the 51st great-great-grandchild was entered into the records, Avery Rose Watson. I was overwhelmed with emotion by the power and depth and history of the ties that bind us one to another. I was even more overwhelmed by the welcoming love that was expressed to both Avery and her equally beautiful mother.

Later in August, we all took a family vacation to Breezy Point, Minnesota with Lisa's parents. Our

last full day up there would have been my father's 79th birthday. It has been almost 15 years since he died in 1996. He loved Breezy Point and we went there as a family for the first time in 1978. He would have burst with pride at the sight of his and his son's growing family. His goal in life was to "fill a pew" at church with his brood. I watched my own son playing with his daughter and realized that when I was his age I had a father and a grandfather and now they were gone and I was a father and a grandfather. I wouldn't have it any other way. I can't.

Friends, we are a family. Maybe not biologically, though then again maybe more biologically than most other congregations, but a family nonetheless. Maybe we didn't get to pick each other. Maybe we did. We are blessed with the sound of human voices greeting one another and checking in with each other, filling every room and hallway, even the sanctuary. We are blessed with the laughter of teenagers, the playing of children and the squealing and crying of babies. Our life together is full. Our history is rich. But we have room for our family to grow and we have blank pages to fill with new stories and new ministries. The majority of the great history of this place has yet to be written with events and ideas that we can't even currently begin to imagine.

As many of us return this September from our various summer getaways, let us share in our own family reunion of sorts, welcoming the newest members of our family and making room for even more. Let us give thanks for those who have come before us as well as those who haven't yet walked through our doors. Let us recognize the blessings of loud voices, bustling hallways and full parking lots. Let us love one another as God has loved each one of us.

To God be the Glory.

Worship Schedule

September 4, 2011
 8:30 a.m. Adult Education
 10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration
 11:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship

September 11, 2011
 8:30 a.m. Adult Education
 10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration
 11:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship

September 18, 2011
Covenant Sunday / Communion
 8:30 a.m. Adult Education
 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Open House
 10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration
 11:00 a.m. Potluck Picnic

September 25, 2011
 8:30 a.m. Education For All
 10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration
 11:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship

September 11 Worship Service

It was one of the moments in history where we all remember where we were when it happened and the images are burned into our memories forever.



The clear blue sky of a September morning filling up with smoke and then ash as first the planes crashed and then the towers crumbled to the earth. Ten years ago, not only did

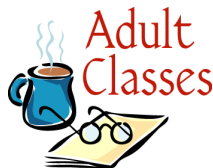
how we go about our daily lives change, but many of our deepest values and beliefs were challenged. What does our faith say about violence and our call to be peacemakers? What do we as Christians believe about revenge, retaliation and forgiveness? What is our response to evil?

With moving Covenant Sunday this year to September 18, we will take the opportunity on Sunday, September 11 to gather together in remembrance and humility as we worship our God, the Source of all

Life and the Fountain of all Goodness, seeking the Spirit's guidance in our efforts as peacemakers. The service will be filled with both profound silence and the beautiful music of guest violinist Ginna Watson from the Rose Ensemble. Come and join us for this time of worship and reflection as we kick off a season around the theme of peacemaking in our homes and families, our communities and congregation, and throughout the entire world.

Adult Education

A new session of Adult Education will begin in September with a focus on peacemaking. The program will entail the study of peacemaking in several aspects of life including peacemaking in the family, in the community, and in the global neighborhood. Making peace when conflict arises can at times be quite challenging. Join us and learn how to better handle life's more difficult situations. Our peacemaking program will begin on September 11



with special guest speaker Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, assistant professor of Justice and Peace Studies at the University of St. Thomas. Jesus commanded us to "love one another." Join us in an exciting journey that will help each us rediscover the love of Christ.

Adult Education meets Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the Knox Room. For more information on this series, or adult education in general, please speak with Jennifer Rose, Rochelle LeTourneau, or one of the pastors.

Book Club

The Book Club will meet at the church on September 10 at 8:30 a.m. September's book is *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield, a #1 New York Times Best Seller.



The Thirteenth Tale is considered to be a gothic novel complete with a creepy house, some ghosts, and long kept secrets.

If you would like to participate this month (we have scrumptious treats), contact the church office for a copy of the book.

Senior High Youth Kick-Off

Come all 9th through 12th grade students and help us kick-off the program year by enjoying a fun afternoon on White Bear Lake at the Ribar house. Meet at church at noon (or shortly after worship) and we will carpool out to 5972 N. Hobe Court, White Bear Township. We will be back at church at 4:00 p.m. Food will be provided so just bring yourselves, your swim suit and your smiles. Please RSVP to Joe or Libby Huettl.



On The Road Again Fundraiser

Attention Senior High Youth! Mark your calendars for Saturday October 1 for our first fundraiser of the fall. We will be selling cheese curds at On The Road Again (an annual one day festival in South St. Paul) from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The day is split into two shifts, so please speak to Libby to discuss which shift you would like to help cover.



Welcome Back to Sunday School

Welcome back, children and families, friends and neighbors! The Children's Ministry Committee is excited to begin a new year of education, music, fellowship and service for children from infancy through sixth grade. Join us on Covenant Sunday, September 18 from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. in the classroom wing to meet Sunday School teachers, visit the classrooms and fill out registration forms.



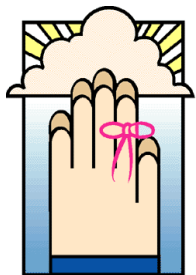
Following worship that day we'll have a chance to share a picnic lunch and enjoy plenty of family entertainment—a drumming group, tie-dye station, a balloon artist, and face painting are all planned. This is always a great day to 'get back in the habit' of coming to church regularly—please plan to be present with your family on Covenant Sunday.

We start our regular program year on Sunday, September 25, to give students and families a chance to get back to weekday school and schedules first! Our Sunday morning schedule remains unchanged from last year, with music with Linda Kachelmeier from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. each week for children in grades kindergarten through sixth with age/grade level classes beginning at 9:00 a.m. Childcare for infants and toddlers is available in the nursery from 8:30 a.m. throughout the morning; 3 & 4 year olds report directly to their classrooms at 8:30 a.m. for music with "Mr. Bill" Doyle followed by their class. All classes will conclude at 9:50 a.m.

Shalom: The Biblical Concept of Peace

Fall is the season that takes us back to school, brings us back from the lake (or other vacations), and many even get back on track with diet and exercise programs. How about coming back to Bible study? The pastor's Bible study this fall will be a thematic look at the Biblical concept of peace known as "Shalom." This 14 week study is for adults of any age and level of familiarity with the text—beginners as well as those more well-seasoned are welcome! In order to provide as much encouragement and flexibility as we can, this study

will be offered on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and again on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. If your schedule doesn't allow regular attendance at one time or another, feel free to switch back and forth. Both classes will be taught by the pastors, and a participant's study book will be provided. Classes begin the third week of September, on Monday September 19 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday September 21 at 9:00 a.m. Please sign up on the kiosk in the Commons so that we know how many to expect.



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, Dorothy Hunter, and Georgieana Nelson.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

- Tom and Jody Glowaski on the death of Tom's brother
- The family of Mary Jones upon her death, July 31
- Eric, Kathy, Tucker and Tobey Kaup on the death of Eric's father
- Bob Anderson on the death of his wife, Doris

Session Approves Loan for HVAC System

In July 2011, the church's air conditioning and heating system that serves the new part of the building and the sanctuary stopped working.

In addition, one of the condensers in the other main air conditioning units also broke down.



The Property Committee asked Session to approve the replacement of the second unit at a cost of approximately

\$4,000. Property also told Session that more time was needed before they could decide on any of the bids that had been received for replacement of the other failed

system.

Finance Committee met on August 8, 2011, to discuss how to pay for the anticipated \$35,000 to \$40,000 that the condenser and the replacement system would cost. Several funds were considered but, confronted with the volatility of the market, the committee felt that depleting most of our cash on hand was not a wise move at this time. Instead, Finance recommended to Session at a special meeting on August 9, 2011, that FPC-SSP borrow up to \$35,000 from Anchor Bank at an anticipated interest rate of 2.5% for five years. The loan would be secured with cash that we have in Anchor Bank. Session approved the recommendation which allows the Property Committee to proceed with purchase and installation of the system before cold weather arrives.

Any remaining cost for the replacement system will be paid from existing funds. The estimated monthly loan payment will be made from regular operating funds in the Property budget. Purchasing the new system will greatly reduce the operating cost of the old system. An estimated \$3,000 has already been spent on maintenance and repairs to the old system in 2011. Those future savings, plus reduced energy costs with the new system, should make it possible to pay the loan payments from regular income.

Situations such as the failure of the HVAC system suggest that it is time to reestablish regular giving to the capital improvement fund, which has been depleted. Discussion about how to do that without impacting regular giving will be held as we move into the Fall stewardship campaign.

Art at First Presbyterian Church, South St. Paul

Please welcome back to FPC local artist Chillon Leach! As we begin the new program year Chillon will exhibit pastels based on the mandala shape. Chillon says: *This pastel series grew out of studying the mandala shape as prayer and art form. As I opened up in prayer, so did the curvilinear shapes from the original unbroken circle of the mandala. The use of curved layers of quickly applied pastel in liturgical colors capture spiritual energy present in faith, nature, inanimate objects, and emotions. These curves also invite the viewer into the work, its meaning, and self-introspection. The theme of light and dark, with emphasis on light elements, depicts my hope as a Christian.*

Mandala is Sanskrit for circle and introduces us to the circle we find in

life and the universe. Seen throughout history across many cultures, for some the circle is sacred, for others it signifies creation and our journey, for others it is used for healing, and brings a sense of peace and understanding. What better fits FPC's labyrinth and our church-wide theme of peacemaking!



Whether family, baby, graduation, wedding or confirmation pictures, we had a good time looking at them all and guessing identities of any unlabeled photos of members displayed in the North Commons over the summer. Thanks to all of

you who contributed to that display. Reinforcing the fabric of our life and generating a lot of interest were the banners hanging in the South Commons area. The banners originally commemorated 100 years of FPC's existence (1893-1993) and our dedication of the million dollar addition to this building. Mary Jones, whose life was celebrated here August 3, created the banners. Embroidered into the fabric of individual pieces of the banners are the names of those who were members here in 1993. How wonderful it was to remember those people no longer here and to celebrate people new to the congregation since then. Thanks to Kattie Kisby, for getting the banners out and doing repair work where needed!

First Presbyterian Church

535 20th Avenue North
South St. Paul MN 55075
Phone: 651/451-6223
Fax: 651/451-3866
www.fpcssp.org
admin@fpcssp.org



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**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
South St. Paul, MN
Permit No. 156

***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

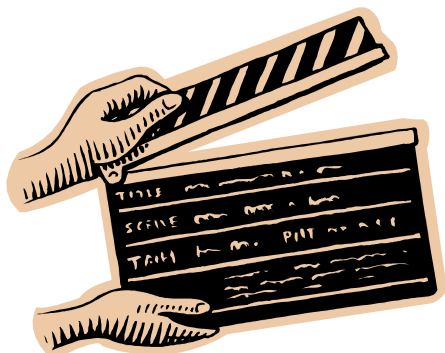
Tower Views Deadline

September 15, 2011

For events taking place in October 2011

Forthcoming Feature: The First Friday Film Forum!

Did you enjoy the Friday night film festival we shared in Lent last year? Or did you miss it but wished you'd gotten there? Then we have a deal for you!



Beginning in October, we will show a full-length movie in the theater of the Education wing every first Friday of the month, and then talk about it over dessert in the Commons. Some of the films will be suitable for the whole family and others will be geared toward youth and adults. The film will be selected and publicized in advance, so you can plan ahead. Just another opportunity to join with family and friends from church to share faith and fellowship every first Friday! Watch for more details.