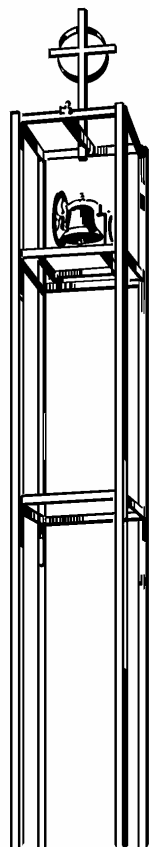


Tower Views

Volume 21, Issue 8

August 1 - 31, 2009



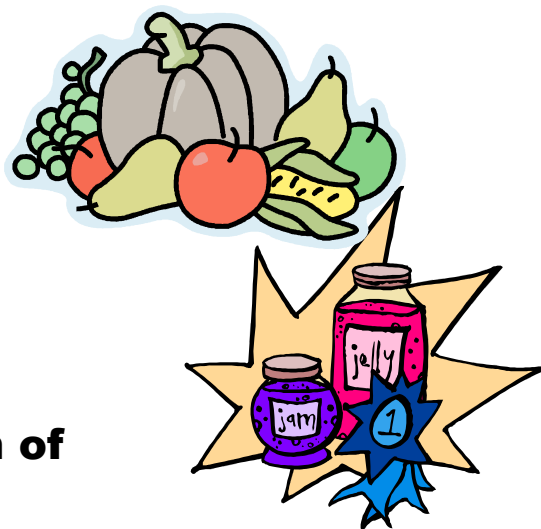
Our mission:

*Equipping
Christians
for the work
of ministry*

THE GREAT WAIBEL GET TOGETHER: BENEFIT FOR STACY & WAYNE WAIBEL Thursday, September 3 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Pig Roast
Live Music
Silent Auction
Pie Throwing
Contest**

**Minimum donation of
\$10 / ticket**



Why are we doing the benefit? Because this is what people living together in Christian community do for one another. As a result of their life-giving, courageous and sacrificial act of love, Stacy and Wayne have lost income and incurred major medical bills as a result of Stacy's recent kidney transplant. They could use the help of their family of faith and thankfully we can offer it. In gratitude for the life we share and the gift of health, we hope you will join us for a night of good food and entertainment, fun and generosity.

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"

Summer Office Hours:

Monday
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Pastors day off
Tuesday through Friday
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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



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

Welcome to August! Even after all my years at this church (this will be my 18th), I still get a charge out of choosing music for a new year and working with singers. With this in mind, I give you my list (actually borrowed from a church in St. Anthony Park).

Linda's top 10 reasons to join a choir at FPC:

#10 It's FREE.

What a great thing, especially considering the current economy. No entry fee, no equipment necessary, no monthly dues. All you have to do is show up and you are assigned a folder, a robe, and great music from our considerable library is just handed to you.

#9 It's fun!

Making music is a very rewarding experience. When was the last time you challenged yourself to do something new, or at least something you haven't done in awhile? The choirs work hard to prepare each week, but we also socialize and enjoy each other's company. Variety is the key since we do new music as well as old -- there is something for everyone.

#8 There is no contract and you can participate as much or as little as you like.

Joining a choir is a commitment, but you don't need to sign your life away! Lots of members are away on certain Wednesdays and Sundays-- that's why it's important to keep growing our choirs so we all can take some time off when we need it.

#7 Everyone is welcome.

We have people of all ages and musical abilities in our groups. Don't worry if you don't read music—it is not a requirement and there are no auditions. Singing is like any muscle: the more you use it, the stronger it gets. That being

said, preferential treatment will be given to basses—we really need them!

#6 It's easier to be in a group than singing (or ringing) solo.

There is safety in numbers. Enough said.

#5 You can (mostly) take the summers off.

Usually we rehearse September though May. Occasionally a summer choir is organized, but only for one or two Sundays. It's nice to have a break, not only for the choir members, but the directors get a chance to recharge their batteries for the upcoming year.

#4 Choir robes will help keep you warm in the winter.

Let's face it, it's cold most of the year here in Minnesota. And here's a well-kept secret: you also don't have to dress up as much if you don't want to, just keep a nice pair of shoes in the car.

#3 Ice cream social, soup lunches at the annual retreat, Applebee's after rehearsals, end of the year choir party...

...it's all about good food.

#2 We're a great group.

Come to any rehearsal and chances are you'll hear lots of laughter along with spirited singing. The work we do pays off in a lovely, heart-filled sound.

#1 You can experience the joy of praising God in harmony.

This one is #1 for a reason. There is simply no better reason to be part of a church choir than to praise God through music. Joy is the only word for it. If you haven't experienced joy in church in awhile, maybe this is the year to give choir a try.

The first rehearsal for the Festival Choir is Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00 p.m. with sparkling cider and cheese reception to follow. Hope to see you there.

Worship Schedule

August 2, 2009

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

August 9, 2009

Communion

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

August 16, 2009

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

August 23, 2009

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

August 30, 2009

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

Adult Education Opportunity

The Adult Ministry Committee continues to sponsor the Sunday morning adult education hour "Living the Questions 2.0." Please join in any Sunday you can make it. Although it is a continuing series, each individual segment stands alone. Please join us for the lively and provocative discussions.

Then, make a note that in September we are excited to welcome back Gary Simpson from Luther Seminary as our fall theologian. His five week focus will fall under the overall theme for this program year: "The Parable of the Good Samaritan: And Who is my Neighbor?" and is titled "Our Neighborhood and the Missionary Character of Christian Faith."

August 2: Prayer: Intimacy with God. The idea of prayer as the primary method of interaction with God is best thought of as a way of life rather than an activity reserved for specific times, places, and formulas.

August 9: Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry. Jesus was not primarily a teacher of correct beliefs or right morals. He was a teacher of a way that transforms people from legalistic rule-followers into compassionate disciples who put people first.

August 16: Creative Transformation. The essence of human nature is to take part in the dynamic and imaginative process of creation; transforming us, our world, our relationships, and our institutions.

August 23: Embracing Ministry. Christian practice is being re-visioned, re-tooled, and reclaimed by those who are living the questions of their faith. They're attentive to ancient ways, comfortable with ambiguity, and open to the unknowable and indescribable mystery of the Divine.

August 30: What Did You Think? Join us for one last time together as we go over the entire program and what we have learned.

Youth in the Pulpit

On Sunday, August 23, the worship service will be led by our youth that participated in the Montreat Youth Conference in July. Jessica Nelson, as part of her project for the International Baccalaureate program at South St. Paul High School, will plan the entire worship service and will be delivering the sermon. Jessi has been meeting with the pastors and Linda Kachelmeier during the summer to learn how we go about planning a worship service, from choosing the scripture verses to the prayers to the hymns that we sing. She has also learned a little something about how to craft and deliver a sermon that is both faithful to the scripture passage and relevant to our 21st century lives.

Don't forget to come to the Shareholder's Dinner that same night to hear from all of the youth who went on the trip to Montreat, N.C.



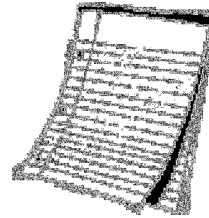
Sharing Information: Adult Ministry Committee

- How many times have you heard or thought “Information is power?”
- Have you ever been in a tight spot and wished you knew where to turn for help?
- Have you ever discovered a great resource and wished you knew how to share it with others that it could help?

As unemployment rises in our congregation and in the families and friends of our members, there is increasing need for many levels of services. We also have members who work in areas of government and elsewhere where information is available on a wide array of governmental and other programs including job search services and support; health care and insurance coverage programs; child care; and food support. For that reason, the Adult Ministry Committee is establishing a new small group to gather and share information on community resources that may be useful to members of the

congregation. The hoped for result of the work of this community resource group is to gather information and make it readily available at a location in the church and with the new website and technology capability, to share the information more broadly.

The group is being led by Ruth Krueger. Ruth is the Director of Dakota County's Employment and Economic Assistance Dept. giving her access to a wide variety of information. We know there are others with similar employment who may join the group in development and upkeep of information.



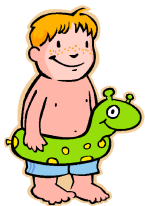
If you would like more information on joining this group or in sharing information, Ruth can be reached at ruthkrueger@msn.com or by telephone evenings at 651/455-7367.

Shareholder's Dinner

At a time when most of our investments, if we have any, are providing diminishing returns, your investment in the youth of our congregation continues to pay off in huge dividends. On Sunday, August 23 at 5:30 p.m., the Youth Ministry Committee will host its Annual Shareholder's Dinner for those who helped support the senior high group on their trip to the Youth Conference in Montreat, North Carolina last month. Please plan on attending to hear about the amazing time they had, how their own spiritual lives were deepened and how they learned to say “Y'all” and eat grits. Remember if you bought 3 or more shares during the selling period you will receive 2 dinner tickets per 3 shares purchased. If you did not purchase shares during the selling period you are still invited to attend—we want everyone to hear the report from these wonderful members of our church! We ask that you RSVP to the office by August 19. A free-will offering from non-shareholders will be appreciated to help us build towards next year's investments!

Let's Make a Splash!

Children's Ministry Committee is pleased to invite kids of all ages and their families to an end-of-summer



pool party and cookout on Sunday, August 30, 2009 at the home of Kelly & Jason Luhrs. We will gather at noon, eat lunch and play in the pool (or sit around the deck!) until 3:00

p.m. The committee will provide hotdogs and lemonade; please bring a side dish or dessert to share. It always helps to know how many to plan for—call the church office to reserve a spot or sing up on the kiosk in the Commons. Friends are welcome but parents are required!

End-of-Season Picnic

Sunday, August 16
5:00 p.m.
North parking lot

Come help us celebrate the Softball and Kickball teams, their fans, and the end of summer. Bring meat (or meat substitute) to grill for your family and a dish to share. Lemonade will be provided.



Saturday, August 8 -
10:00 a.m.

Join us that morning to help pick up the trash along Wentworth Avenue (Robert St. to Delaware Ave.). Meet in the parking lot of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church (1575 Charlton Ave., WSP) at 10 a.m. We'll be done before noon.

Change Comes to the Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee has a new face—four new faces to be



exact. Kathy Junek, Jane Lowery, Wayne Otto and Jason Johnson are the new members of the committee and they are excited to work with such a hard-working and talented Church staff. They replace Kathy Kaup, Jan Mahoney, and Connie Prall who have served faithfully for nearly five years.

The Personnel Committee is always looking for feedback about the staff of First Presbyterian--positive comments about a job well done as well as suggestions for ways to improve. If you have any comments for the committee, please talk to any of the committee members directly, or contact Jason Johnson via e-mail at johns808@umn.edu.

Book Club Selection

August's selection is *A Thousand Acres* by Jane Smiley. A successful Iowa farmer decides to divide his farm between his three daughters. When the youngest objects, she is cut out of his will. This sets off a chain of events that brings dark truths to light and explodes long-suppressed emotions. An ambitious reimagining of Shakespeare's "King Lear" cast upon a typical American community in the late twentieth century, *A Thousand Acres* takes on themes of truth, justice, love, and pride, and reveals the beautiful yet treacherous topography of humanity.

Please contact Julie Vigness-Pint with questions or to get a book. We will meet August 8 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commons.

Welcome New Staff Members

We are pleased to announce that two new staff members have been added to the First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul family.

Patrick Mahoney is our new church custodian. Patrick has been a lifelong member of First Presbyterian, active in many church activities, including the softball and kickball teams. He brings energy, commitment, and experience to the position, and is living up to the precedent set by our most recent custodian, Jim Vasseur. Patrick is also a Cottage Grove volunteer firefighter and an avid fisherman and outdoorsman. He is married to Shannon and has three children, Aubree, Alec, and Terra.



Another familiar face has returned to First Presbyterian. Kendra Brodin has accepted the newly combined position of Organist and Director of Bells. Kendra was

previously the organist at First Presbyterian from 2000 to 2003 and has enhanced our worship since that time as substitute organist. A church organist since the age of 11, Kendra was most recently director of the handbell choirs and the youth vocal choir at St. Phillip's Lutheran Church. Kendra has studied pipe organ and piano performance, and is a graduate of Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, has a M.S.W. degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and earned a J.D. degree from the University of Minnesota Law School.



Please join us in congratulating Patrick and Kendra on their new positions and wishing them the best in their ministries with us.

Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" is a community gathering where everyone can participate in the fight against cancer. Participants take turns walking around the track all night because cancer never sleeps.

First Presbyterian Church will once again participate in the Relay to be held at Lincoln Center Elementary School in South St. Paul. The Opening Ceremony, including the "survivor's lap," begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday,



August 7. The event runs through the night and concludes at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 8.

The Luminaria Ceremony begins at 9:00 p.m. Luminaria are paper bag lanterns that line the track in honor of a cancer survivor or in memory of loved ones lost to cancer. This ceremony is very moving when the candles are lit and a hush comes over the crowd.

Please consider participating in the Relay or by sponsoring a walker. Luminaria can also be purchased. Stop by the table in the Commons for more information or call the church office.

Mission Update

End Hunger Funds: The End Hunger program is still going strong, testifying to a congregation committed to following Christ's directive to serve. Our Second quarter End Hunger dollars added up to \$1,800 and the donation was sent to Church World Service to work with AIDS victims and to help alleviate malaria in African countries. Our small sacrifices can certainly be a blessing for people whose needs are crying out for solutions. Keep up the good work, that our gifts continue to make a better life for many.

Pancakes on the horizon: The second pancake breakfast netted \$359.50 which will be used in far off Pakistan's Forman Christian College. And with the next two pancake breakfasts, we will be looking closer to home to Project Home needs on August 2 and Family Place on August 30. From our experience with July's Homeless Shelter, we know first hand the needs of the many families that are depending on Project Home for overnight housing and the Family Place as a daytime refuge. Each organization is so appreciative of whatever we can send their way.

Shawls: It may not seem the time of year to think of shawls, but if you were spending your remaining weeks or months at Our Lady of Good Counsel, a shawl around your shoulders may feel very comforting and pleasant. In the Fall, we will be considering sharing shawls again with the ladies who are residents at the Naomi Center, part of the Union Gospel Mission's women's division. If you would like to start knitting or crocheting shawls, call the church office for more information.



Change the World: End Hunger Now

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."

~ Nelson Mandela

Recognizing the importance of education as an essential ingredient in creating a viable future for Africa's vulnerable children, Church World Service launched its School Safe Zones Program in Kenya in 2005 as a part of its Africa Initiative. Kenya was selected because of its commitment to education, illustrated by the decision of the Kenyan government in 2003 to make primary education free to all children.

Muchungucha Primary School, which we have been asked to help support, is one of the 60 schools in this important CWS educational effort in Kenya. The need:

classrooms lack sufficient furniture (i.e. desks and chairs), classroom floors need repair, and walls need painting. Most classrooms have neither doors nor windows, and children have to put up with strong wind, dust and driving rain during lessons. The school has no piped water and relies on a stream located two kilometers away. This water is unsafe for students' consumption. The available pit latrines are insufficient for the large school population. Often students spend more than 15 minutes in line to use the toilet at break time. This affects the girls more, because their needs for privacy after puberty cannot be accommodated. For this reason alone, many girls do not attend school.

But we can help change this! During July, August and September we hope our End Hunger Now contributions can provide \$2,000 as a part of the \$30,000 needed for this project. If you can afford a little extra for this quarter, we should be able to meet the \$2,000 goal. We do not work alone. We are part of this worldwide effort.

Hunger Offering



FPC-SSP "By The Numbers"

~ Some silly and serious statistics about the life of our church ~

Number of ...	
people who order flowers for Sunday worship in a year	47
people on the Worship Committee	5
people who attended the Outdoor Worship service on July 12	131
automatic deposit forms turned in by July 15.....	7
dollars the operating fund income is behind (as of 6/30/09) ..	\$13,992
members who are homebound or in a care facility.....	17
funeral / memorial forms sent out.....	23
funeral / memorial forms returned.....	1
members newly ordained as elder or deacon.....	8

Church Rummage Sale

The Deacons are having a Rummage Sale on Saturday, October 10. A committee is being formed to organize this big event. We will need people to help plan, collect items, sort, set up, price, and work on the day of the sale as greeters, cashiers and clean up. This will be a great opportunity to get to know some of your fellow church members a little better and let FPC show its friendly faces to our community. All funds raised will be used to support the Deacons' work. Let's make this a true congregation-wide effort by getting involved. Watch the bulletin for a chance to sign up to help.

As you sort & clean this summer, please keep the FPC Rummage Sale in mind. Donations will be accepted beginning October 1. More information to follow soon.

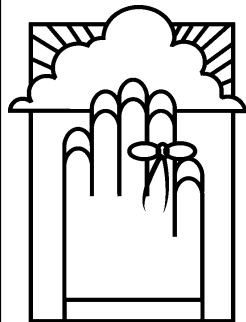
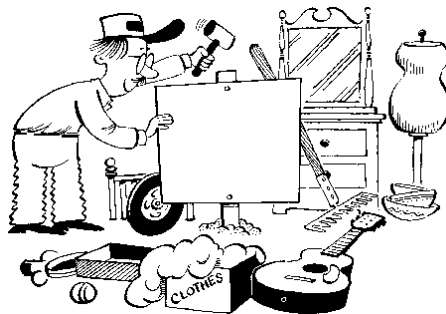
We are pleased to accept the following in clean, working condition:

- Clothing - boys', girls', and infants'
- Footwear - shoes and boots
- Outerwear - hats, gloves, mittens and scarves
- Books, records, compact disks, videotapes and DVDs
- Games and toys

- House wares—dishes, kitchen utensils, lamps and small appliances
- Knickknacks (giftware)
- Furniture - dressers, tables
- Antiques and collectibles
- Hardware and tools
- Domestics—curtains, linen, bedspreads, blankets, etc.
- Sporting goods

We cannot accept the following items:

- Any CPSC or manufacture recalled item
- Furniture in need of repair - soiled, torn, missing pieces, etc.
- Women's or men's clothing
- Large appliances - refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, etc.
- Automobile parts of any kind - tires, rims, hubcaps, etc.
- Hot water heaters or water softeners
- Carpeting and padding
- Mattresses, bed springs, sofa beds, hospital beds
- Windows, screens, shutters, doors
- Encyclopedias, magazines, school textbooks
- Hangers
- Scrap lumber, concrete, bricks, stones
- Bathroom/kitchen fixtures - sinks, bathtubs, toilets, etc.
- Air conditioning units
- Paint, household chemicals, insecticides, etc.
- Food items
- Gas-powered equipment
- Gas grills
- Televisions
- Halogen Floor lamps
- Medical supplies
- Exercise equipment
- Metal desks
- Organs or pianos



PLEASE REMEMBER
THESE FRIENDS IN
PRAYER

These members and friends of FPC have had surgery, been hospitalized or ill in recent weeks: John Nelsen, Joel Bennett, Bill Beyer, Betty Bohmert, Jean Sites, Donna Belmonte, Jerry Olson, Lee Nelson Sr., Jason Johnson, Rich Quinn, Betsy Nelson, Phyllis Krefting, Lyle Odland, Stacy Waibel, and Wayne Waibel.

Congratulations to Cynthia and Michael Holtz on the birth of Kaitlin Rose, July 15.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Ruth Nelson and the Lee Nelson Jr. family on the death of Lee Nelson, July 17.



I wish to thank each and every one of you for the excellent food, cards, prayers and also the

personal visits during my right metal hip replacement. Surgery was a piece of cake and the second day after surgery there was no hip pain. Recovery is proceeding and all of the limping and pain are in the past.

~ John Marien

**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

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.



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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, 2009

For events taking place in September 2009

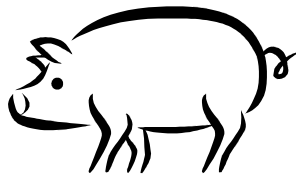
Coming Next Month ...

Waibel Benefit Pig Roast & Party

Thursday,

September 3

(see front cover for
more information)

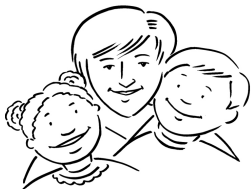


Neighbor's, Inc.

2nd Annual Duck

Race

Saturday, September 19



Covenant Sunday

Sunday, September 13

"And Who Is My Neighbor?"

Launch of the new church website

Special children's entertainment

First Day of

Sunday

School

Sunday,

September 20

