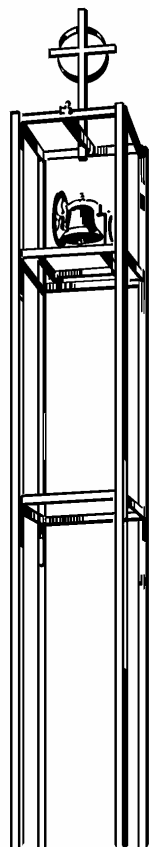


Tower Views

Volume 21. Issue 9

September 1-30, 2009



Our mission:

***Equipping
Christians
for the work
of ministry***

Covenant Sunday September 13



**Worship celebration 10:00 a.m.
Potluck lunch 11:00 a.m.**

Join us as we begin a new program year living into the Parable of the Good Samaritan and discovering what it means to be a good neighbor to each other and out in the world.

Education classes for all ages begin
September 20 at 8:30 a.m.

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

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In a pastoral emergency
outside of office hours:

Pastor Katie
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Pastor Tom
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Staff Notes

"But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'" (Luke 10:29) This is the anonymous lawyer's question after being told that to inherit eternal life he must love God and love his neighbor. And who is my neighbor? Jesus doesn't respond by naming an actual person or with a dictionary definition, but with the familiar words of the Parable of the Good Samaritan, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho ..." Starting Covenant Sunday, this fall we will explore the parable from different perspectives and in unique ways in an effort to live into the lawyer's question and with the hope of being better neighbors to each other, our communities and the world.

Two or three months ago, the Session and its committees were asked to come up with ideas for how their particular ministries might be able to bring this parable and its introductory question to life. For some that challenge was easy and for others it took a great deal of creativity and broad interpretation. The idea was to provide our leadership with a single theme to focus their energy into a cohesive whole. It has also provided a great deal of collaboration and communication between committees that sometimes is missing. As you read through this issue you will notice many of the classes, events and other opportunities already planned to help us find ourselves in this parable.

Thanks to the inspiration of Benicio Mendiola-Johnson, the children are going to be learning about and raising money for one of the global ministries of Open Arms of Minnesota. Since 2002, Open Arms has distributed food parcels to those living with HIV / AIDS and their caregivers on the township of Guguletu, South Africa. Forty dollars sponsors a five-gallon bucket overflowing with staples like

flour, sugar and rice. These parcels can feed a family of seven for a month. And who is my neighbor? The people in sub-Saharan Africa living face to face with the devastation of the AIDS pandemic.

In October, our youth will once again sleep overnight in the cold with nothing but their cardboard box homes to keep them warm as they raise money for the programs sponsored by the St. Paul Area Council of Churches to alleviate homelessness right here in the Twin Cities. And who is my neighbor? The homeless family fortunate enough to find a place to sleep thanks to the overflow emergency shelters of Project Home.

The Adult Ministry Committee is pouring their energy into helping facilitate and support small group ministries in our own congregation; those that are already active, as well as a lot of new ones. These groups could be anything from people interested in environmental concerns, kickball, Quentin Tarantino movies, interfaith dialogue, romance novels, Brett Favre, gardening or American Idol, maybe even the Bible. It doesn't really matter. Let them know your passion and they will help find the people who share it. The idea is to get to know each other better, or for the first time, around things you already enjoy doing, but didn't know the person in the pew behind you did as well. And who is my neighbor? The person you see every Sunday, but never talk to.

When Jesus finishes telling the parable, he asks the lawyer, "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robber?" The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." May we come to know our neighbors better, loving them and showing them mercy. God and do likewise!

Worship Schedule

September 6, 2009

Communion

8:30 a.m. Adult Education
10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration
11:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship
Camp Songs — FPC Campers

September 13, 2009

Covenant Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration
11:00 a.m. All Church Potluck
“Love Grows Here” — Festival Choir

September 20, 2009

8:30 a.m. Education For All
10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration
11:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship
“Come, Bless the Lord” — Celebration Singers

September 27, 2009

8:30 a.m. Education For All
10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration
11:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship
“O Be Joyful, Sing to God” — Chancel Choir

And Who is My Neighbor?

Who are your neighbors? Where are they (near or far)? What do you know about them?

The Worship Committee invites you to bring in pictures in whatever form you want (photograph, hand drawn, portrait, etc.) of your neighbors – both far and near! We will display them in the Commons area for all to see ... so go through your pictures and drop them off in the box near the Welcome Table that is marked “Who is my neighbor.”

We will make copies of your picture so please put your name on the back; we will return the original to you. If you have a story to go with the picture, please share that as well.

Let us see your neighbors!

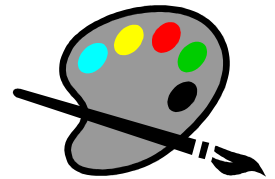


“Geography of Home”

The Adult Ministry Committee is pleased and excited to sponsor an ongoing exhibit and conversations featuring the work of teaching artist, Susan Armington. Susan’s compelling works deal with connecting across differences and the role of words in bringing us together and maintaining our separateness. Her art makes frequent use of text in various languages. Her painting “*Geography of Home*” will be on display at FPC for two months, between exhibits at the Minnesota History Center and the Weismann Art Center. The map tells stories of our neighbors, about what it is like to live in the Twin Cities. The stories are in Somali, English, Russian, Hmong, Tibetan, Spanish,

Cambodian, Vietnamese, Arabic, and 20 other languages. The map is accompanied by a book of the complete writings by residents with English translations.

On Covenant Sunday, September 13, Ms. Armington will briefly introduce her work through stories of how the work evolved, and again during a reception on Tuesday evening, September 17 for the congregation and greater community. Ms Armington is the recipient of a 2009 Minnesota State Arts Board “Artist Initiative Grant” and was named “Changemaker of 2008” by Minnesota Women’s Press.



Adult Education

Adult Education classes for the fall begin September 20 at 8:30 a.m. in the Knox Room. Gary Simpson, Professor of Systematic Theology at Luther Seminary returns as our



theologian. The five week series is titled *Our Neighborhood and the Missionary Character of Christian Faith: Challenge, Change, Imagination, Discernment, and Leadership*.

September 20: *Challenge*
September 27: *Change*

Senior High Fall Fellowship

Here we go again! Following the Covenant Sunday festivities at the church (September 13), the senior high youth group will kick-off the new program year out on the shores



of beautiful Bald Eagle Lake. Since the majority of active youth from

last year are returning and there are a large group of incoming ninth graders, we have the wonderful problem of having a group that will have almost doubled in size. The current plan is to gather in the parking lot at 1:00 p.m. so that we have plenty of time to see how we are going to legally squeeze 20 kids into two vehicles. Because of the shortage of space, we would ask that anyone going along not eat a lot at the potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall and that you bring any bungee

cords, rope and duct tape if you have them. Once everyone has arrived at the Ribar home, and completed the light cleaning, construction and yard work, it will be time for a nap. Then when everyone wakes up, the fun and ever so exciting revelry will begin culminating in a bonfire and s'mores extravaganza. We will return home with as many kids as possible around 9:00 p.m.

On Sunday, September 27, we will meet at the church for "Dinner & a Movie." The movie, unless easily persuaded people hear differently, will be *Sweet Home Alabama*. At the time of publication, the dinner menu was still uncertain, but you can pretty much rest assured that it will not be egg rolls, mashed potatoes and crab cakes.



Sunday School Classes

Welcome back! 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. We start our program year on September 20.



The Sunday morning schedule begins with a music time with Linda Kachelmeier from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. each week for children Kindergarten through 6th grade. Age/grade level classes begin at 9:00 a.m. Childcare for infants and toddlers is available from 8:30 a.m. through the morning; 3 & 4 year olds report directly to their classrooms at 8:30 a.m. All classes will conclude at 9:50 a.m.

A big debt of gratitude and every good blessing to our children's Sunday School teachers:

Preschool: Angela Kutz, Kathy and Eric Kaup

Kindergarten—1st grade: Shannon Mahoney and Libby Huettl

2nd—3rd grade: Kathy Doyle and Kelly Luhrs

4th—6th grade: Dave Collins and Stacy Luurtsema

Duck Race

The Great Neighbors' Mississippi River Duck Race is a fundraising event for Neighbors, Inc.



The event will be held on September 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Kaposia Landing in South St. Paul. There will be

carnival games, food, a raffle, and the Duck Race. You can adopt your ducks now be calling the church office or going to Neighbors' website at www.neighborsmn.org. Ducks are adopted for \$5 each or a Family Fun Pack for \$25. The first place duck wins a 50cc Scooter; a 40" flat-screen TV for 2nd place; a drive-in movie in your backyard for the 3rd place duck; and \$100 for the last duck to cross the line.

Confirmation

This year's Confirmation class will begin on Sunday, September 20 with a parent-youth meeting in Fellowship Hall at 8:30 a.m.

Confirmation is a two-year process for youth in 7th and 8th grades and meets during the education hour on Sunday mornings. At the meeting we will go over the expectations of the students and their families, as well as provide important dates to get on your calendars.

Those youth in the Confirmation class are then invited back to the church that evening at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and games. We will be finished and ready for kids to be picked up at 8:00 p.m. Adult leaders will be exhausted and ready to go to sleep at about 8:01 p.m., if not sooner.



Book Club Selection

The Book Club selection for September 12 is *Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything across Italy, India and Indonesia* by Elizabeth Gilbert.

This spiritual memoir brims with humor, grace, and honesty. After a messy divorce and other personal missteps, Elizabeth Gilbert confronts her depression and loneliness by traveling to three countries that she intuited had something she was seeking. In Italy, she seeks to master the art of pleasure by indulging her senses. In an Indian ashram, she learns the rigors and liberation of mind-exalting hours of meditation. And in Bali she achieves a precarious, yet precious equilibrium.

All are invited to participate. Books are available in the office and are due back by September 12.

New Music, New Schedule, New Director – Oh My!

It's a new year of music opportunities. Exciting things are happening in the music program with new music, a new



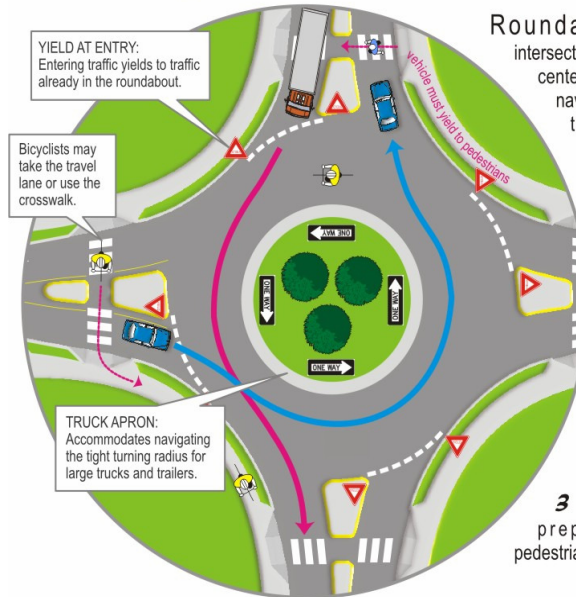
bell director, new rehearsal spaces, and a new schedule. You are going to want to be a part of it!

The Wednesday music schedule:

- 5:30 p.m. Jubilation Ringers (Beginning bell ringers of all ages starting with 4th grade)
- 6:00 p.m. Voices of the Heart (Youth vocal choir)
- 6:30 p.m. Bells of Praise (Intermediate/advanced bell ringers, high school and older)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir or Festival Choir (Adult vocal choir)
- 8:00 p.m. Celebration Singers (Adult vocal choir)

What Is Going On At The Thompson / Wentworth Interchange?

Navigating Roundabouts in Minnesota



Roundabouts are circular intersections where traffic flows around a center island. They are easy to navigate and statistics show, safer than intersections with traffic signals. They also reduce crashes, congestion, pollution and traffic delays.

Driving a Roundabout:

- 1 To enter, slow down and stop for pedestrians in crosswalks and traffic in the roundabout.
- 2 Proceed slowly and merge safely. Once you are in the roundabout, you have the right-of-way.
- 3 To exit, turn right and be prepared to stop for pedestrians in crosswalk.

www.dot.state.mn.us/roundabouts



The Minnesota Department of Transportation is replacing the two old intersections that serviced the Wentworth / Hwy 52 underpass with two modern roundabouts. The roundabouts should be completed by the end of September.

The primary reason the roundabouts are being installed is safety. Mn/DOT data shows that in 2001-03 there were 31 crashes at the Wentworth / Hwy 52 underpass, and in 2005-07 21 accidents resulted in approximately \$462,000 in property damage. A high number of these crashes were right-angle “T-bone” crashes, the most severe crash type that commonly occurs at intersections. Roundabouts are proven to be extremely effective at reducing severe injury crashes.

When approaching a roundabout, slow down. Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, just as you would at any other intersection. Enter the

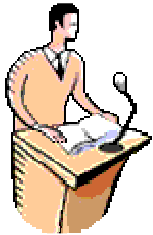
roundabout as soon as there is enough room to merge. You must yield to vehicles already inside the roundabout, but you should not come to a complete stop unless necessary. Vehicles legally circulating the roundabout will always approach from the left. You use only right-hand turns when entering or exiting a roundabout. *The secret to roundabouts is to yield.* There are no stop signs in a roundabout. If you miss your exit, do not stop, just continue around the roundabout until you reach your exit again.

Signals lights are being installed on Thompson Ave. simply because roundabouts were not feasible. As a result, an improved traffic signal system with additional lanes will be installed. Work on Thompson Ave. is planned to be completed in late November, weather permitting.

(written by JP Gillach, MnDot)

Public Speaking for the Beginner

Would you like to learn to speak more professionally and confidently in front of a group? Join us on



September 29 and 30 at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for a course in public speaking. The purpose of the class is to provide assistance, guidelines and practice to individuals

who experience difficulties in public speaking situations. Any person 16 years of age and older are invited to participate; there is no charge.

Presenters include FPC member Jerry Auth and his business partner Robert Pirro. They have over 50 years of combined experience in training and education and bring empathy to those who would like to become less fearful and more effective in public speaking.

Road Clean-up: a poem

Are you old enough to remember
The movie I saw long ago?
It featured the handsome Ty Powers
And "Olga" someone in the show.

The Rains of Ranchipur was the
movie.

I thought of it on August the 8th,
As five of us covered road clean-up
In rain we considered a spate!

The rain of the evening before
Made our work just a bit less
demanding.

Great rushes of runoff preceded our
task,
But we're sure that the sewers are
teaming.

We'll do this again in October.
The 3rd is the date we have set.
Your presence is kindly requested.
A clean Wentworth's the reward that
you get.

Investing in the future: End Hunger Now

During this quarter our End Hunger Now giving will support the Church World Service School Zones Program at the Muchungucha Primary School, Murang'a, Kenya. This small school is currently part of 60 schools in marginalized areas. Funding for the Muchungucha School will total \$30,600 of which we are asked to contribute \$2,000.

Muchungucha Primary School remains one of the most vulnerable schools in Murang'a. Communities around the school remain threatened by hunger and poverty as the small plots of land cannot sustain families. For the most part, what grows in the garden is consumed before it can mature. Residents in communities around the school are semi-literate and mainly rely on subsistence agriculture—growing bananas, corn and beans on their two-acre strips of land around their homesteads. Muchungucha Primary School is among 17 SSZ schools in Murang'a District. The school is

situated on an 11-acre plot of land and serves 790 boys and girls (6-17 years). Dusty classroom floors are sometimes infested with chiggers and diarrhea, cough and ringworm are common illnesses for this community of students.

But Christians believe the world can be better. The problems are massive, but progress is being made. God calls us to do our part.

The School Safe Zones Program can play a large part in addressing the poverty issues in Africa. This program intends eventually to embrace all Kenyan schools by 2015. We have an important part to play in this school project, and we need to remember that we do not work alone. We are part of Church World Service and other thousands of Christians who are committed to helping the poorest of the poor, to ending hunger and disease throughout this extremely poor part of the world.

Mission Volunteer Opportunities: One Thing More

Instead of focusing their efforts on one particular issue, the Mission Committee has decided to challenge the entire congregation to change how we see ourselves as people called to build up the Kingdom of God. We are extremely generous and do a great job of financially supporting our various mission projects and special offerings, but in economically stressful times this becomes increasingly difficult for many of us. We also have a number of people who are equally generous with offering themselves and their time as volunteers, unfortunately this is less than 20% of our 400 member congregation. And so the challenge is this, that each one of us can do *One Thing More*.

Over the next twelve months, the Mission Committee is committing to help every member of the congregation find something to do where they have a passion and can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. These can be ongoing projects or a one time event, just as long as it is one thing more. On Covenant Sunday, there will be lists available of all the projects that we currently support and for which we always need volunteers. There will also be blank spaces for you to add opportunities that you know and where you think our congregation could also become involved, maybe you already volunteer there. Let us be the change we want to see in the world. It is our mission as the church.

July Family Shelter Update

First Presbyterian Church hosted the Project Home Family Shelter Program for the twelfth year during the month of July. First Presbyterian volunteers along with volunteers from St. John Vianney (July 26-31) and volunteers from Luther Memorial (July 19-26) opened the lower level of our church each night at 5:30 p.m. to welcome our shelter guests. We were near or at capacity many nights. Food and



shelter was provided for a total of 278 children and 169 parents during the month. We can be proud of the generous volunteers who provided nutritious snacks and time to guests who were in serious need. This is a charity that truly begins at home. Many of our members worked as families to host the guests, and they have done so year after year. We want to thank all of the volunteers for their wonderful work—several worked more than one shift. See the kiosk in the Commons for a list of FPC volunteers. A special thank you goes to Maureen Kutz for opening our church several nights as

greeter. We also want to thank all of the volunteers from St. John Vianney who were coordinated by Brady West and the volunteers from Luther Memorial who were coordinated by Carol Bidwell for their continued support and work in this program. The month went very well! Thank you to everyone for a fantastic job!



A (Music) Note from Kendra

Hello to everyone! It's great to be back at First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul, this time as both organist and bell choir director. I had the pleasure of working with Phyllis when she was Director of Bells and I was the organist from 2000-03, and I know I have big shoes to fill. I can't wait to get to know all of the ringers of Bells of Praise and Jubilation Ringers. I invite anyone who has considered playing bells in the past to contact me – this might be your year to start. To all of the returning bell ringers, I can't wait to get to know you better and make beautiful bell music with you this year! And I am

also pleased to be back on the bench as organist! I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the members of this church as both bell director and organist, and together we, as musicians, ringers, singers, and worshippers, will praise God through our music! To God be the glory, Kendra



Thank you for all your prayers, cards, comments, and visits during my recent hip replacement surgery. The power of our church community adds more to ones speedy recovery than can be imagined. ~ Lyle Odland

To all who paid tribute to Lee through prayers, cards, letters, visits, food and by helping with and/or attending his memorial service—thank you. We were deeply moved and our hearts are warmed. ~ The Nelson family



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, Wayne and Stacy Waibel, Donna Belmonte, Phil Haig, Bill Francomb, Phyllis Krefting, Lorraine Aarness, Julie Leas and Shirley Chelsvig. Congratulations to Tim Roberts, Jr. who graduated from Minneapolis Community and Technical College with a degree in Air Traffic Control Management.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who provided special music during the summer worship services. ~ Linda Kachelmeier

**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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Rev. Tom Watson

Pastors

Mary Love

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Tower Views Deadline

September 15, 2009

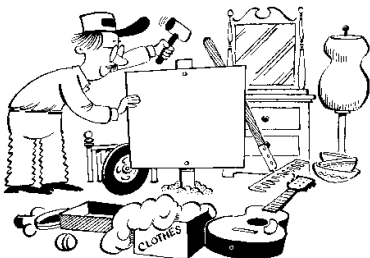
For events taking place in October 2009

Rummage Sale

October 10

Volunteers and donations are needed for the Deacons' Rummage Sale.

If you'd like to help, call the church office or sign the offering sheet in the bulletin.



Donations will be accepted beginning October 1.

Check the August *Tower Views* or the kiosk for a complete list of acceptable and non-acceptable items.

All proceeds will be used to support the work of the Board of Deacons.