



2000 E. COLLEGE AVE.
NORMAL, IL 61761
309-452-4459

SEPTEMBER FIRST FOCUS

ISSUE DATE : 09/02/11

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NORMAL, IL 61761
PERMIT NO. 104
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First Presbyterian Church is a
lifeline for everyday people
to find, love and serve Jesus.



Worship Schedule

SEPTEMBER 4
Worship/ 10:00 a.m.
One service only

SEPTEMBER 11
Fall Schedule begins
Worship/Communion
8:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

9:45 a.m. Church school for all ages

SEPTEMBER 18
Worship
8:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Church school for all ages

SEPTEMBER 25
Worship
8:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Church school for all ages

OCTOBER 2
Worship/Communion
8:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Church school for all ages

Dear Friends,



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Bread for the World is an organization that works to influence public awareness and government policies on the issue of hunger. Their motto is, "Have Faith: End Hunger." Their website (www.bread.org) now has a series of videos for viewing online at no cost.

The videos focus on places, particularly Mexico, where people are making progress in sustainable agriculture. These successful aid programs are bringing hope to rural people in a time of rising food prices, drought, increasing population, and dwindling harvests.

Wise use of resources and aid really can enable people to have the food they need for a decent life. As we inform ourselves of the issues in global hunger, we add to our understanding of what can be done to change the world for the better, in Jesus' name.

Blessings, Larry **Humanitarian Disaster in the Horn of Africa**

The famine in Somalia threatens 11 million people. The famine was brought on by drought and has been made worse by terrorist groups in the region.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance reports that it is working cooperatively with other denominations to provide famine relief at refugee camps.

Those wishing to donate to this effort should write checks to First Presbyterian Church, marked for "Somalia". Money received will be forwarded to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



CONGRATULATIONS to
Pastors
Becca & Dave Bruner
on the birth of
Eleanor Elizabeth,
August 4.
12:53 a.m.
9 lbs. 11 oz.

If you or your child(ren) seek,



please contact
Pastors Gaylord or Bruner

*Prayer
Works*



- Mary Benscoter, hip surgery
- Barb Gaffron & Family,
on the death of her mother
- Faith Ten Haken's nephew, pacemaker
- Terry Tosh's aunt & mother,
health concerns
- Shirley Ladue
- Bob Hunt & Family
on the death of his brother, Ron
- Susan Lykkebak Smith, lung cancer,
sister of Nan Rutledge
- John Johnston
- Margaret Foster
- Jim Kerr, Mary Evenson's father
- David Merrick, cancer,
friend of Kelley Becker
- Lori Groetken, cancer,
friend of Gary & Wendy Satchwell
- Taryn Northrup, medulloblastoma,
niece of Debbie Hanchett
- Bill, Pat & Rob Laughlin

**ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
SUNDAY MORNINGS – 9:45 A.M.**

BODY-BUILDING - FALL 2011

A series of classes designed to equip & enrich men and women with the necessary tools to find, love, and serve Jesus Christ.

Brochures available

CROSS TRAINING

Sermon-based, Bible-study classes that speak to the everyday issues of life

**MAKING THE CLIMB:
THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT
Sept. 11– Nov. 20
Great Hall**



Nowhere does Jesus talk more clearly about what it looks like to follow him than in the Sermon on the Mount. It's a provocative and counter-cultural announcement about what happens when God shows up: the poor, the meek, and those who mourn— even these groups are called "blessed". And the seemingly impossible happens: enemies are loved, the poor are cared for, people mean what they say. God's will is done on earth.

For 10 Weeks this fall, we will gather in groups to learn from Jesus Himself how to live this Kingdom life today.

Quench Café

A time for parents, friends & anyone who loves Jesus, kids, **AND** coffee!

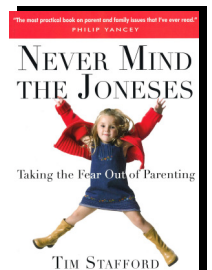
NEVER MIND THE JONESES:

TAKING THE FEAR OUT OF PARENTING

Sept. 11– Oct. 23

Downstairs Kitchen

How can parents nurture their families with confidence, without the fear that they are making some big mistake? Set yourself free from worrying about comparing yourself to the Joneses or anyone else. Learn how to build core Christian values into your children in a way that fits who God made your family to be, unique and different from every other family.



Facilitated by: Sandy Theile & friends

STRENGTH TRAINING

A chance to do some “heavy lifting” & engage in deeper Biblical, historical & theological study.

**LIVING THE QUESTIONS, PART III:
CALLED TO COVENANT
September 11– October 23
Library**



This series creates an environment where participants interact with one another in exploring current theological thought. Featured are conversations with 30 of today's leading religious voices.

Facilitated by: Marilyn Townley,
Carol Schrantz & friends



**Marriage
Enrichment
Class**

**Communication
& Commitment
November 6-20
Library**

The Communication and Commitment is a course for Christian Couples with good marriages. The sessions will provide for couples to evaluate the areas in which they would like to grow.

Classes will involve discussion and practice of a variety of communication styles. Each couple will be encouraged to develop a plan for continued growth in their relationship and regular review of their progress. No cost to participants, but each couple will be asked to commit to some 'homework' between sessions.

Facilitated by: Dave & Anne Eaton
*Celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year
and still working on growth in their marriage*



Please leave NON-PERISHABLE donations in the **SHARE** containers between the sets of double doors at either entrance of the building.

**BOOK
STUDY GROUP
9:00 A.M.
THURSDAYS**



**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
is the 15th
of the
previous month.**

**DOROTHY KOPPENHOEFER
Meadows Mennonite
Retirement Community
24588 Church St.,
Station 4, Rm 6
Chenoa, IL 61726**



**SHIRLEY LADUE
McLean County Nursing Home
901 North Main
Normal, IL 61761**

**Deb & Jim Presley
Payten, Morgan
6 Bailey Ct.
Bloomington, IL 61704**



"CONFESSING THE BEATITUDES"

by Margaret Aymer

Beginning **Wednesday, September 21**, 1:30 p.m. and meeting the third Wednesday of each month through May.

A time of fellowship and study extended to all women of the church.

Sound interesting and stimulating? Order a study book by contacting Louise Crumpler, 309-4541837 or lou5340@frontier.com.

This study will focus on connecting faith with daily life and address the most difficult issues facing the world today. It also looks at the historical context of the Beatitudes in Matthew & Luke and what they meant to original audiences who heard Jesus speak them.



CHILDCARE

is available at worship services through kindergarten age.



BE A GREETER:

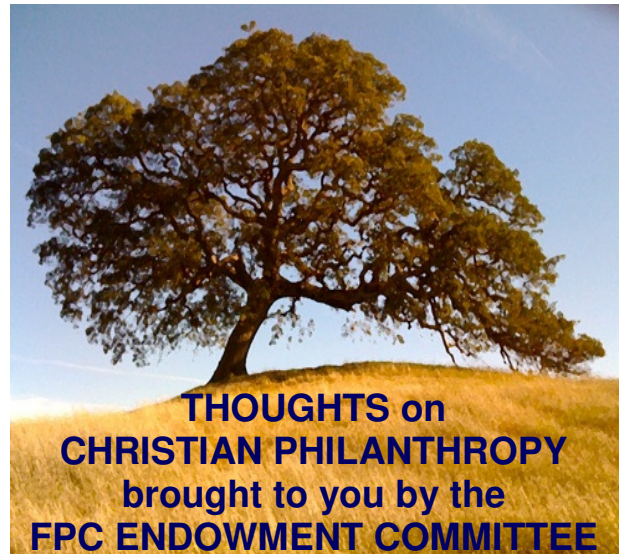
Two persons are needed at each door. **SIGN UP BOOK** is located on the counter near the office.



APPLE AND/OR WHITE GRAPE JUICE is needed.
Please put your donations in the upstairs kitchen.

ATTENDANCE

- 08/07 – 220**
- 08/14 – 261**
- 08/21 – 265**
- 08/28 – 295**



**"Give naught, get same.
Give much, get same."**

Malcolm Forbes (1919-1990)
American publisher

Proverbs 11:24

*"It is possible to give away and become richer!
It is also possible to hold on too tightly
and lose everything"*

(related article pg. 5)

FALL 2011 SERMON SERIES
“The Sermon on the Mount”

DATE THEME & SERMON TEXT

| | |
|-------|---|
| 9/11 | HOW TO...BE BLESSED MATTHEW 5:1-12 |
| 9/18 | HOW TO...MAKE A DIFFERENCE MATTHEW 5:13-16 |
| 9/25 | HOW TO...BE GREAT MATTHEW 5:17-20 |
| 10/2 | HOW TO...HAVE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, PART I MATTHEW 5:21-30 |
| 10/9 | HOW TO...LOVE YOUR ENEMIES MATTHEW 5:38-48 |
| 10/16 | HOW TO...NOT BE RELIGIOUS MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-18 |
| 10/23 | HOW TO...GET AHEAD, GOD’S WAY MATTHEW 6:19-34 |
| 10/30 | CONSECRATION SUNDAY |
| 11/6 | HOW TO...HAVE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, PART II MATTHEW 7:1-12 |
| 11/13 | HOW TO...DISCERN THE TRUTH MATTHEW 7:13-20 |
| 11/20 | HOW TO...STAND FIRM TO THE END MATTHEW 7:21-29 |



6:30 - 7:15 a.m. Lounge
This group is open to all men.
Next meeting dates: September 12 & 26

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ENDOWMENT FUND

A Source of Support for Generations to Come

Recall the parable of the tiny mustard seed, “which... becomes the greatest of all shrubs.”

Planned gifts may be the size of the mustard plant, growing to a shrub



It is in this spirit that the church endowment (permanent) fund was established. Just as the tiny mustard seed grows into a large shrub, planned gifts such as bequests of any size, life income arrangements, life insurance, retirement plan gifts, gifts of real property, and gifts of other appreciated assets can grow into substantial endowment funds that will nurture and sustain the church’s mission and ministries far into the future.

Endowment funds are prudently invested and managed to provide the church as much current income as possible while preserving the value of the fund to support future ministry needs. Investment policies have been established and approved by Session to ensure the principal of the fund remains intact, keeps pace with inflation, and is available to generate funds in the future.

For more information on how you may contribute to the endowment fund, contact Carole Ringer, chair, or any member of the Endowment Fund Committee: Gigi Miles, Andy Nappi, Jon Thetard, David Thiele.



We have 10 people who are planning to attend. We are in need of a van which will accommodate 12 people and their luggage from noon October 14 to 5:00 p.m. October 16.

If you have a van we can borrow please contact Marilea White at 820-7670 or marileaw@frontier.com

If you want to help but cannot actually attend the mission weekend, you might be able to meet some of the needs of CSM. If you are able to donate any of these items, we will take them to CSM:

- folding chairs or camping chairs*
- vacuum cleaners, large coffee percolator*
- airpot (large, travel coffee dispenser)*
- coffee maker, toaster*
- laminating pouches 11" x 13"*
- manila envelopes, ink cartridges*
(HP DeskJet D4360, black or color)
- pens, gift cards to Staples*
- microwave*

We covet your prayers of support in our endeavor to be Christ's hands and feet

Submitted by Marilea White



Michael & Julie Gizzi
 Nick
 1725 Sage Dr.
 Normal, IL
 454-8800



- October 2** Jane Han, Anissa Leber, Elizabeth Lacey
- October 3** Julie Buckles
- October 4** Dave Kinley, Dan Kim, Phil Garrett
- October 5** Dick Marley, Marcella Brust, Janet Sutton
- October 7** Nellie Lock
- October 8** Matt Mullins, Gabriella Toulon
- October 9** LaVon Schultz, Ann Beck, Stephen Kelly
- October 10** Sara Frankowiak, Andrea Doss
- October 11** Alex Shepard
- October 12** Rosalie Huskisson, Sara Garrett, Sabrina Smith, Darrin Hansing, Larissa Hong, Megan Hoepker, Henry Wissmiller
- October 13** Drake Shepard
- October 16** Kristin Boeck, Rachel Smith, Arlan Lacey
- October 17** Dave Eaton
- October 18** Jim Bouas, Jacob Gaylord, Aiden Walter
- October 19** Bob Fischer, Janice Meade, Chet O'Neal, Selby Hubbard, Gloria Brewer
- October 20** Debbie Hubbard, Abby Briggs
- October 21** Linda Berkowich, Kayla Byrd, Melissa Paschold,
- October 23** Wilma Gasaway, Rose Yahnig
- October 24** Marilea White
- October 25** John Johnston
- October 26** Helen Canham, Glenda Blume, Steve Lott, Megan Florence
- October 27** Myra Secoy, Diana Blair
- October 28** Jerry McGinnis, Denver Brant
- October 29** Fred Chapman
- October 30** Tom Collins, Steve Yahnig, Peter Bussone
- October 31** Kelley Becker



Summer vacations are over, the pools are getting ready to close and school is back in session. Wow how time flies! We would love for your family to join us in **Believers' Bay every Sunday!** Believers' Bay begins a brand new year Sunday, September 11, 9:45 a.m.

On this day, we will present our kindergartners with their very own Bibles. Parents of kindergartners are invited to accompany their children to Believers' Bay for this very special presentation.

Children, ages 2 through 5th grade, will find friends, fun engaging Bible lessons and more at Believers' Bay.

Beginning this year, the 4th and 5th grade students will have class together in a fun "tween" setting. The Children's Ministry team is really excited about this new opportunity for these young people to grow and learn in an age appropriate environment.

Children in Preschool-3rd grade will begin Believers' Bay each week with upbeat, fun songs and the noisy offering. The offering this semester will benefit Heifer Project.

Different from previous years, the Bible lessons for grades kindergarten-3rd grade will be taught in a more traditional Sunday School classroom environment.

Our FPC preschoolers will continue to spend time with Theo the Faith Retriever and wonderful small group leaders.

Please plan now to join us for Believers' Bay every Sunday beginning September 11! Registration forms for Believers' Bay are on the Youth and Children's Ministry display table outside the elevator and on the FPC website on the Children's Ministry page.



The Youth Ministry team has been hard at work planning a great start to the fall for the FPC Youth. If you are in 6th-12 grades, we welcome you and look forward to getting to know you better!!

Youth Ministry Schedule

SUNDAYS

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 4:45-5:30 p.m. GIRL! Choir
 5:30-7:30 p.m. Youth Groups
 (both Jr. & Sr. High)

WEDNESDAYS

7:15 pm Sr. High Girls Bible Study

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 6:00 P.M.

PARENT/YOUTH MEETING (JR. & SR. HIGH)

This meeting will include a brief presentation about the Youth Ministry programming at FPC; youth leaders and Sunday School teachers will be introduced and parents and youth will have the opportunity to meet and talk with Sunday School teachers about curriculum and class goals. Please plan to attend this very important meeting. Snacks will be provided!!

SR. HIGH LOCK-IN, SATURDAY, SEPT. 10, FOLLOWING THE PARENT/YOUTH MEETING

Sr. High Youth are invited to stay for a lock-in that will include games, food, worship and even a little SLEEP? Youth are asked to bring \$5 for pizza and supplies, a drink and a snack to share.

The lock-in will include breakfast on Sunday morning. Please contact Kelley Becker if it would bring you joy to provide breakfast. Youth are encouraged to stay at the church for Sunday School and worship.

ALL YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES, INCLUDING CONFIRMATION WILL BEGIN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 9:45 A.M.

JR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 5:30 - 7:30 .PM.

Rather than providing a full dinner each week, there will be a snack provided by parents. Lynn Litwiller will be coordinating snacks for the Jr. High Youth Group.

There will not be Sr. High Youth Group on Sunday, September 11 because the youth will all be at home resting, doing homework and preparing for the school week ahead. They are such good kids!



GIRL! CHOIR is specifically for young ladies in 6th-12th grades. Rehearsals are on Sundays, beginning September 11th at 4:45 pm. The choir sings every 4-6 weeks in worship. GIRL! Choir has the coolest t-shirts ever!! Join the choir and you can have one too! GIRL! is directed by Barb Lemmon.



There will be a Bible study for Sr. High girls Wednesdays, 7:15 pm. This study is for girls who wish to seriously study the Bible, pray together and hold one another accountable.

The study will begin on Wednesday, September, 14. The book of Ephesians will be the first study this year. Books are \$3 each. HOMEWORK....please watch the movie *The Notebook* before the first meeting.

UGANDAN ORPHANS CHOIR

We will be hosting this joyous group again **November 13** and need host homes to house the children and chaperones.

Contact Phil Enge penge@firstpresnormal.org if you can host or help in any other way during their stay

PARENTS NIGHT OUT: Friday, Sept. 30 5:30 - 9:00 p.m. Parents, have a night out while their children play at church supervised by our great childcare workers. Fee \$5/family RSVP to Carol welcome@firstpresnormal.org **Deadline is no later than 3:00 p.m. September 28**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 6:30 P.M.

Trunk or Treat



Families are invited to dress up in their scariest best to trick or treat FPC trunks.

Invite your friends!!

Watch for the sign up sheet soon!

Please contact Kelley Becker if you would like to provide a trunk with treats! There will be a prize for the best decorated trunk!

FAITH IN ACTION is

sponsoring a

"PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY SEMINAR"

September 19

2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Great Hall

Learn how to protect yourself from the 6 types of identity theft presented by ID Theft Risk Specialist Edward Schumer of Affirmative Defense Response Systems.



7TH ANNUAL FPC RUMMAGE SALE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

GREAT HALL

8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Please bring gently used items (no adult clothing or adult shoes) for the annual rummage sale with 100% of all proceeds this year to benefit the Western Avenue Community Center.

Drop off times 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Monday, October 10 thru Thursday, October 13.

Please contact Darren Brant (309) 530-5400 or darrenbrant@comcast.net with any questions or to sign up to volunteer.