

FIRST FOCUS

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



ISSUE DATE : 01/26/11

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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NORMAL, IL 61761
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS A
LIFELINE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE
TO FIND, LOVE AND SERVE JESUS.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JANUARY 30

Worship/Baptism - 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Church School

FEBRUARY 6

Worship/Communion
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Church School
Congregational Meeting - 9:35 A.M.

FEBRUARY 13

Worship
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Church School

FEBRUARY 20

Worship
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Church School
No Youth Group or GIRL! Choir



01/16 – 318
01/23 – 301

Dear Friends,

The summer before I was married, I took a job at an organization called *Gymboree Play & Music* whose purpose was to lead children and parents in activities that would help develop the cognitive, physical and social skills of children as they play. I worked as their substitute music teacher that summer, taking over various classes here and there, so that their full-time teachers could take their summer vacations.

As I played games and sang songs with kids and parents alike, I was struck by how valuable a resource a place like *Gymboree* must be for parents. It's not like moms and dads are



given a manual for how to play with their kids when they leave the hospital. There are all kinds of books for how to get your kids to eat, sleep, and behave, but what about how to sing? How to play? How do parents learn how to teach their kids these things? *Gymboree* sought to answer those questions.

The same goes for matters of faith. How do we teach our kids what it means to be a Christian and encourage them to make their faith a central part of their everyday lives?

The Empowered Parenting Conference seeks to help you find the answers to these questions: the faith questions. It's not about applying the right formula or doing what everyone around you is doing.... it's about building 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.

Empowered Parenting Conference
Saturday, **February 5**, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Second Presbyterian Church, Bloomington.
Register online today at
<http://www.empoweredparentingconference.com>

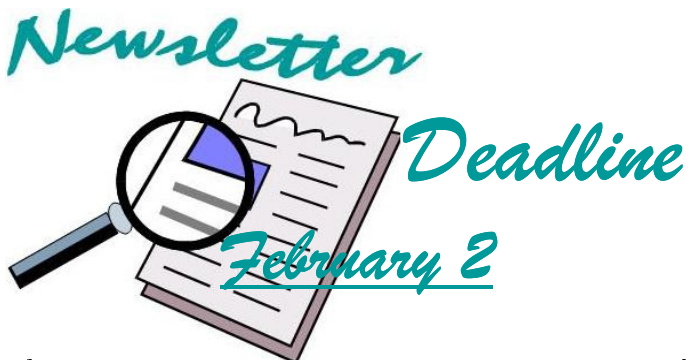
Hope to see you there! Pastor Becca

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
Baptism

for yourself or
your child(ren),
please contact
Pastors Gaylord or Bruner



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



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

Would your family like to deliver SHARE box grocery items to Clare House, Home Sweet Home Mission or Western Avenue Community Center? Commitment is only one for one month of the year. If you are unable to deliver, you can still bring items to fill the boxes. Delivery is usually once every other week on your assigned month depending upon the generosity of our donations. Call Carol Baker 830-8131 or email ckbaker24@frontier.com to grab the chance to deliver to help those in need.



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAYS – 9:45 A.M.

B.I.N.D. GROUPS (*Great Hall*): Join together with other folks who are reading the *Bible in 90 Days*! Be a part of a discussion group and hear the experts on film. Don't try to go it alone! We're in it together on this Bible in 90 Days journey!

* **B.I.N.D. Groups** meet
Monday afternoons at 2 p.m.
& Monday evenings at 6 p.m.

SERMON TEXT STUDY / DISCUSSION

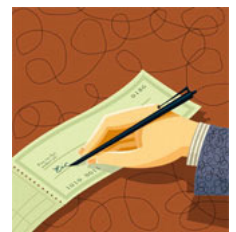
(*Library*): A group will meet for discussion of Scriptures and topics from the morning's sermon. Some folk will have heard the sermon the prior hour and others expecting to hear it next hour. The texts will be in the *First Focus* newsletter, and in the class. Learn the Biblical and historical contexts for the texts, listen for God's word of Good News in the text and discuss how it can affect each one of our lives. Open to anyone who wishes, with each session seeking to be complete in itself.

PER CAPITA FOR 2011:

**\$28.00 for each church
member in the household**

Special Per Capita envelopes are available in the pew racks throughout the month of January. Your

contribution of \$28.00 for each church member in your household is a big help in our local church budget, and greatly appreciated.





CHILDCARE

is available at worship services through kindergarten age.

WORSHIP BAGS

are offered for children in worship and located in the main hallway desk.



MONDAY, JANUARY 31
6:30 - 7:15 A.M.
LOUNGE

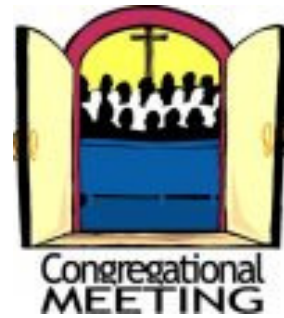
This group is open to all men and meets every two weeks to discuss various topics. Next meeting: February 14



Donations of **APPLE & WHITE GRAPE JUICE** are needed. Please leave your donations in the kitchen near the Great Hall.

Thanks so much to all those who have signed up to greet on Sunday. Everyone can have their turn. Two persons are needed at each door.

GREETER SIGN UP BOOK is located on the counter near the office.



SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 6
9:35 A.M.



LORD
HEAR OUR
PRAYERS

Details of request by permission only

- Bud Satchwell**, cancer, father of Gary
 - Maria Herren**, cancer, cousin of Wendy Satchwell
 - Teresa**, cancer, friend of Wendy Satchwell
 - Letha**, daughter has cancer, friend of Louise Crumpler
 - Mike Melzer's mom**
 - Dr. Anjuli Nayak**, leukemia
 - Kerry Johnson**, cancer, step-mom of Holle, church website designer
-



PARENTS
NIGHT OUT
Friday,
January 28

5:30 - 9:00 P.M.

Parents, have a night out while their children play at church supervised by our great childcare workers.

Fee is \$5/family

RSVP to Carol:

welcome@firstpresnormal.org



Celebrated January 16

Alecia Marie Hinegardner,

daughter of Andrew & Andrea Hinegardner

FIRST PRES LOCAL MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Committee supports many local ministries and organizations as part of your giving each year. We want members to know about the impact you are making and to ask for your input about these and other efforts which you'd like to have considered.

In 2010 we allocated \$15,500 to 17 community agencies and programs including gifts of \$250-\$1500 to: AIDS Task Force, Boys and Girls Club, Clare House, Collaborative Solutions Institute, Community Health Care Clinic, Home Sweet Home Mission, Jesus House, Joy Care Ministry, Mid Central Illinois Community Action, Midwest Food Bank, PATH, Partners for Community, Prairie State Legal Services, Project OZ, Safe Harbor and Safe Harbor Meals Program. Scott Health Care and Western Avenue Community Center. The largest grants, normally \$1,000 went to those providing emergency food and medical assistance. We also paid our church's membership dues for Faith in Action and Illinois Peoples' Action. It will be our goal this year, along with Deacon's Mission Promotion Section, to help members of First Pres know more about how our gifts help advance Christ's Mission.

Members of Mission Committee and others who have agreed to help, will be conducting interviews with representatives of these agencies to help determine need, functions, to guide decisions about this year's allocations. If you have additional agencies you feel should be considered, please contact Bob Hunt, Chair.

THANK YOU FOR SPECIAL OFFERING GIVING

Each January, Session gives approval to four Special Offerings of our Presbyterian denomination: Presbyterian Church U.S.A. These offerings are in addition to our more

general support of program and mission of Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.

We particularly want to thank you for your gifts to the Peacemaking Offering, taken around the first of October and World Communion Sunday. This year's offering amounted to over \$2,300, significant increase over 2009. The final count of the Christmas JOY Offering has not been determined -- an offering which supports supplemental grants to retired Presbyterian Pastors and Church Workers whose regular monthly payments based on 'long ago' church careers aren't adequate for today's expenses, and for minority-church-related educational institutions.

The next special offering is conducted ecumenically and is received at Lent/Easter. For our church, it particularly supports Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People. There will be material in bulletin inserts and mission interpretation. The financial support you provide reaches around the world as well as in our local congregation and community. Thank you very much!

Both articles Submitted by Mission Committee & Deacon's Mission Promotion

Please join us
for the
2011
Heart of Faith Gala
Saturday, February 12

The Parke Hotel & Conference Center
1414 N. Towanda Barnes Rd., Bloomington

Beginning @ 6pm Cocktails (cash bar)
Dinner
Silent & Live Auction
Entertainment

\$50 per person

For reservations call
309.827.7780

Proceeds benefit Bloomington-Normal Faith in Action

Submitted by Kathy Patterson

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Feb. 1 Jack Peterson,
Nathan Hinegardner
- Feb. 2 **Jamal Coleman**
- Feb. 4 Joyce Baley, Shirley Redd
- Feb. 5 **John Wolter, Sally Rodriguez,
Austin Nice**
- Feb. 6 Don Fehrman, Berit Rice
- Feb. 7 **Teresa Herbert, Dan Sutton,
Connor Herbert**
- Feb. 8 Christy Bartel
- Feb. 10 **Jane Brue, Jeff Bartel**
- Feb. 13 George Kitterman,
Jim Thompson,
Dana Anderson
- Feb. 14 **Jaiden Mousty**
- Feb. 15 Kenneth Leber
- Feb. 16 **Suzie Thetard**
- Feb. 18 Nan Rutledge
- Feb. 19 **MaryJo Hillyer**
- Feb. 20 Wren McMorris
- Feb. 21 **Jon Thetard, Claire Herbert**
- Feb. 22 Eldon Brewer, Chris Frey
- Feb. 23 **Grant Leber**
- Feb. 24 El Walker, Carol Baker,
Joan Frazier, Sheila Allen
- Feb. 25 **Nan Reno**
- Feb. 26 Lizzie Shepard
- Feb. 27 **David Kennedy, Sue Attwood,
Kevin Rice**
- Feb. 28 Katharine Woollen

WINTER- LENT 2011 "The Bible in 90 Days"

Date	Theme	Texts
1/30	Gideon: From Worrier to Warrior	Judges 6:11-12, 25-32, 34
2/6	David: A Spiritual Heart Check	2 Samuel 7, 12,15; 1 Samuel 18
2/13	Nehemiah: How Do You Rebuild After a Disaster?	Nehemiah 1-6
2/20	Esther: Courage When it Counts	Esther 4, 7

Women's Spring Retreat

Princess Unaware

"Discovering Who God Created You To Be"

April 8 - 10, 2011
Stronghold Center
Oregon, IL

Our speaker, Brenda Garrison, will challenge us to look at ourselves as God sees us. To see where we are going in our lives and where God wants us to go. She will encourage us to look at our relationships and how to improve them. We will be encouraged to become the woman God wants us to be.

Registration for retreat will be in March.

Watch for the dates!

The cost of the retreat is \$95
(scholarships are available)

Stronghold Center sits on a hill overlooking a river. There are trails to hike, deer to see, games to play, and evening campfires to sit and sing around.

Please join us as we seek to draw closer to our Lord and get to know the other women at **FPC**. Questions: contact Becky Cobert (663-6237 or rshc5@yahoo.com) or Pastor Becca .

Knowing about God and personally knowing God are two very different things.

THE GREAT BANQUET

MARCH 17-20
MEN'S WEEKEND

MARCH 31-APRIL 3
WOMEN'S WEEKEND

Contact Pastor Becca Bruner
if you are interested

OUR FPC ENDOWMENT FUND IS LIKE THE MUSTARD TREE

From a small start, a sturdy base fund will grow and grow, spreading wide its impact



In one of his most familiar parables, Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed, *"which, when sown upon the ground is the smallest of all the seeds of the earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."*

In Memory of

STEPHEN DIXON
4/20/1936 – 1/16/2011
Former pastor of FPC, 1977-83



A mustard tree is far less noble and glorious than an oak. The mustard tree is more like a gnarly weed. It grows large, but mostly in an outward direction. It grows along the ground covering whole areas. Dispersing. Multiplying.

It all starts with a mustard seed.



So does our Endowment Fund. Will you plant a mustard seed? Charitable gifts to the endowment fund can be made by anyone at any time and in any amount. Donors often ask family and friends to make contributions to the fund in lieu of a birthday or anniversary or as a thanksgiving offering. Such a donation is a wonderful gift for someone who doesn't want more *things*. Keep these ideas in mind throughout the year.

The Endowment Fund Committee
Carole Ringer, Gigi Miles, Andy Nappi,
Jon Thetard, David Thiele