



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

OCTOBER FIRST FOCUS

ISSUE DATE : 10/05/11

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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NORMAL, IL 61761
PERMIT NO. 104
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**First Presbyterian Church is a
lifeline for everyday people
to find, love and serve Jesus.**



Worship Schedule

OCTOBER 2

Worship/Communion/Baptism

8:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

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

OCTOBER 9

Worship

8:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

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

OCTOBER 16

Worship

8:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

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

OCTOBER 23

Worship/Baptism

8:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – 9:35 A.M.

OCTOBER 30

Worship/Consecration Sunday

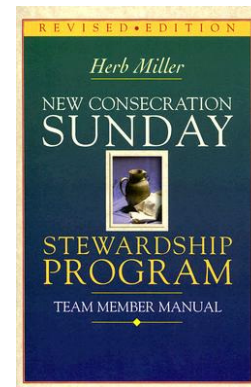
8:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

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

Dear Friends,

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's stewardship committee selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.



New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's mission and ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Avana Nice
Consecration Sunday Chairperson

If you or your child(ren) seek,



please contact
Pastors Gaylord or Bruner

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



CHILDCARE is available at worship services through kindergarten age.

Prayer Works



Jim & Rachel Wilson, on the death of their brother-in-law, Larry Rollings
Forrest Harris & Family, on the death of his mother, Lillian
Faith Ten Haken's nephew, pacemaker
Terry Tosh's mother, health concerns
Shirley Ladue
Susan Lykkebak Smith, lung cancer, sister of Nan Rutledge
John Johnston
Margaret Foster
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



6:30 - 7:15 a.m. Lounge
This group is open to all men.
Next meeting dates: October 10 & 24



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



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
In progress through 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.



Quench Café

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



**TAKING THE FEAR
OUT OF PARENTING**
In progress through 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.

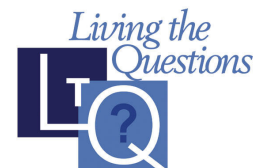
Facilitated by: Sandy Theile & friends



STRENGTH TRAINING

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

LIVING THE QUESTIONS, PART III:
CALLED TO COVENANT
In progress through 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

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.



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
is the 15th of the previous month.



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
ENDS NOVEMBER 6**

Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday, November 5



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

ATTENDANCE

- 09/04 – 197
- 09/11 – 327
- 09/18 – 314
- 09/25 – 318
- 10/02 - 312



FALL 2011 SERMON SERIES
"The Sermon on the Mount"

DATE	THEME & SERMON TEXT
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



CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Have you visited the children's library downstairs? We have a large variety of books for children and families. There are Bible Stories and references, along with stories of God in our lives.

The Life with Family and Friends section has books about many issues that our children and families face in real life, as well as stories of children from other cultures. We also have some wonderful traditional children's literature.

Do your kids like the Magic Treehouse series or mysteries? Recently we added some wonderful chapter books and biographies for children. And there are some fun VHS tapes and DVDs. We welcome you to come down, take a look, and check out some great books to share with your children!

Submitted by Joyce Reinmann, librarian

THE UGANDAN
Orphans Choir

We are hosting this joyous group **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.



NEW ADDRESSES

LUCY PATTERSON
 2025 E. Lincoln, #3104
 Bloomington, IL 61701

JANET SUTTON
 7965 Paseo Membrillo
 Carlsbad, CA 92009
 309-212-5751
Janetsutton20@gmail.com



**Parents
 Night Out**

Friday, October 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 \$5/family
 RSVP to Carol welcome@firstpresnormal.org
Deadline is no later than Oct. 26, 3:00 p.m.

Trunk or Treat



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27
6:30 P.M.

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

Invite your friends!!

Watch for the signup 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!

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.



Enjoy breakfast, hear moving stories, and support a great cause! The American Red Cross of the Heartland (ARC) will hold its annual Saluting Our Heroes Breakfast **Thursday, November 3.**

This event honors people who have unselfishly given of themselves to save someone's life or to make the community stronger, while raising funds for the ARC.

Tickets are \$35 each or sponsor a table of 10 for \$500. For more information and/or to purchase tickets, go to www.archeartland.org.

Submitted by Tom Harms



.....is in need of mattresses, box springs, and kitchen utensils.

You can find them on the web www.recyclingfurnitureforfamilies.org or phone them at 829-6500 for furniture donation or to arrange furniture pick up.

On their web site you can see what they cannot take (large appliances, metal office furniture, luggage) and what they can (small appliances, bedding, dishes, etc.).

Submitted by Susan Baller-Shepard



- Nov. 1** Willa Whitworth,
Marilyn Townley, Wayne Nice,
Tim Rink, Will Ewan
- Nov. 2** Luci Rice, Pastor Bruner
- Nov. 3** Chris Anderson, Miriam Zappa
- Nov. 5** Kathy Tosh, Scott Tippy,
Deb Hanchett
- Nov. 7** Joyce Reinmann
- Nov. 8** Shelley Bruning, Melissa Pish
- Nov. 9** Al Bussone
- Nov. 10** Morgan LaPrade,
Rowen Kruger
- Nov. 11** Lynn Litwiller, Jeff Mousty
- Nov. 12** Trisha Dowd, Matt Stombaugh
- Nov. 13** Jane Turley
- Nov. 14** Ray Cunningham
- Nov. 15** Susan Smith, McKinley Pate
- Nov. 16** Mark Sherman,
Greg Frankowiak
- Nov. 17** Avana Nice, Laura Meyer
- Nov. 19** Marilyn Hargesheimer,
Heidi Kim
Brian Oughton, Tyler Gatto
- Nov. 20** Clint Kruger, Grace Henderson
- Nov. 21** Carol Campbell,
Maddy Woodward
- Nov. 22** Pastor Gaylord, Kyle Pott,
Ben Henderson
- Nov. 23** Jake Leamer
- Nov. 24** Glenn Kinley
- Nov. 25** Scott Henderson, Bryan Bathe
Dave McMorris, Cari Fairchild
- Nov. 26** Ella Cryer
- Nov. 27** Allen Melzer, Alexis Schumm
- Nov. 28** Laura Gowdy
- Nov. 29** Claire Koh
- Nov. 30** Luke Jun

PEACEMAKING OFFERING 2011



SOWING SEEDS OF PEACE

The annual Peacemaking Offering is ordinarily received on World Communion Sunday. This year, it has been suggested that we focus the Offering on the following Sunday, October 9, since we will be hosting Marina Shishova who is one of this year's International Peacemakers. Her presence and that program is one of the annual elements supported by the Peacemaking Offering.

In addition, conducting peace camps, preventing gun violence, ending the use of child soldiers – are a few of the ways that funds from the Peacemaking Offering are making a difference.

Jesus calls his followers to be peacemakers. But sometimes it's a tough sell. In a war-weary world, when violent acts and images seem to pervade every aspect of society, many of us feel powerless to work for peace. Attaining world peace is an unattainable goal for one person or even our congregation.

Through the Peacemaking Offering, received annually for 31 years, individual gifts are multiplied to make a difference. Last year we supported Mom and Me, a program helping to strengthen relationships between imprisoned mothers and their children. This year the local 25% will help support Marina's visit and the Colombia Accompaniment mission of Anne and Dave Eaton next February.

**International Peacemaker Marina Shishova
in Normal-Bloomington October 7-12.**

Read the amazing brief autobiography (below) of Marina Shishova who was raised in an atheistic Communist home, and came to be part of the Christian faith and a leader in the Orthodox Church in St. Petersburg.

Marina will share a panel with Bruce Rigdon and Bill White in our sanctuary, Sunday, October 9, 7:00 p.m.; to discuss peace issues in Russia including human and religious rights, creation spirituality, and the role that Church can make in today's society.

She will be a speaker at Golden Kiwanis club, Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan Universities. Marina Shishova will also be presented at Great Rivers Presbytery.

First Peacemakers feels very fortunate to have Marina for this time to share her experience and perspectives about the opportunity for peacemakers.

Submitted by Dave Eaton



**Autobiography of Marina Shishova
St. Petersburg, Russia**



Since I am a former Soviet person my life could be presented as an ongoing process of crossing borders. I would first mention the transformation of thinking, of unceasing metanoja.

I was born in 1964, in the North of Russia, to a family of engineers who were typical as unbelieving Soviet intellectuals. My parents grew during Stalin's era amidst cruel repressions. They somehow preserved their

inner freedom and yet did not inherit the Christian Orthodox beliefs of their parents.

They believed in science, progress and communism. Besides my parents, it was the Soviet school that formed my outlooks. The upbringing I received established limits that the mind could not cross. The mind was supposed to function within the materialist, atheist, socialist and, as it was called, internationalist ideology, which, in truth was just the embodiment of imperial ambitions.

Late in the 1980s, the perestroika beginning, I was a bit over 20. By that time, I had graduated from a higher school and was employed as an engineer. I already had a family and a small daughter. Suddenly, the world that had seemed so unchangeable began crumbling in front of our eyes.

We hurriedly read previously forbidden and now freely published books. At that time, the outer limits crumbling, my inner limits did the same. The Berlin wall fell, followed by materialist, atheist, totalitarian and imperial constraints. I felt like the world suddenly opened and our home filled with fresh air.

Those were scary yet happy years. I stepped over the threshold of the Church, the Russian Orthodox Church in my case. Then I joined the freshly opened department of Theology. This was like a double revolution.

Firstly, for the first time, a department of theology opened at a secular college. Secondly, also for the first time, women were admitted to studying theology.

Then it was the turn of the confessional limits. In 1994 I joined the Interchurch Partnership, an ecumenical organization. Now I work as a vice-president of it. The Partnership promotes Christian education and peacemaking and gets engaged in research, publishing and social projects. My interests include such issues as the Church and Society (challenges, Church responses, justice, human rights issues, etc), Inter-Cultural and Inter-Church Relations, and Gender Studies.

I live with my husband Nikolay, an engineer. Our daughter Maria, 26 years old, has graduated from the Philosophical faculty of the St. Petersburg University and lives and works in Moscow.

**SUNDAY
OCTOBER 23
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
9:35 A.M.
Election of Officers**

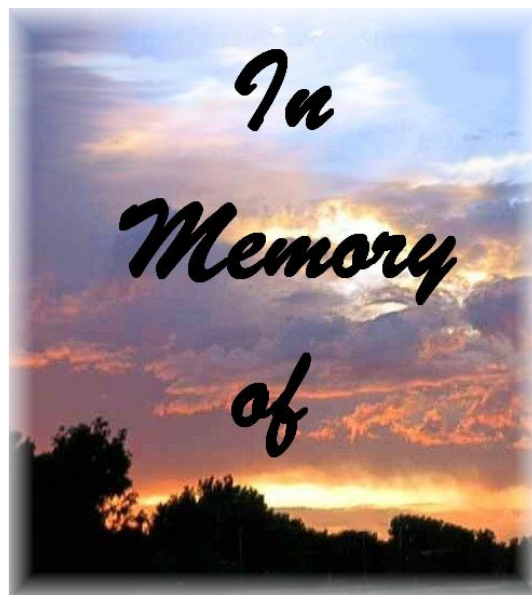


**SESSION NOMINEES
(Elder Class of 2014)**

**Steve Yahnig
Patty Kelly
Amanda Cryer
Lori Kennedy
Matt Litwiller
Kylie Thompson
(Youth Elder)**

**DEACONS NOMINEES
(Class of 2014)**

**Ginny Clarahan
Fred & Lavon Schultz
Gloria Kelley
Edie Erzen**



ALBERT MELTON
August 31, 1915 – September 19, 2011

HOME SWEET HOME MISSION



Sunday, October 16, 2:15-4:15 p.m.
Please join FPC Youth and leaders as we celebrate fall with our friends at Home Sweet Home Mission. We are planning games, crafts and treats to eat. If you would like to help plan or provide treats, please email Kelley Becker. Otherwise, please plan to come and enjoy the afternoon. If you are 18 or older, Home Sweet Home asks that you fill out a very fast volunteer application on their website.
http://www.hshministries.org/get_involved/volunteer_app.php



TO THE CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

A nice little art show was in the Great Hall Gallery until Sept 26. First Presbyterian Church is blessed with many creative members. Participants in the latest ARTISTS AMONG US exhibit were:

Joan Edgren, Dave Eaton, Peggy Grove, Wilma Haerr, Joyce Kay, Mary Lou Kimball, Mark Klinger, Pat Laughlin, Sue O'Neal, Ben Paxton, Ed Proctor, Ralph Rodriguez, Marilyn Townley, Margaret Wolf and Karen Zappa.

We always welcome new input and hearing about the hobbies and talents of members. Please share these with Mark Klinger and Margaret Wolf.

Submitted by Margaret Wolf

THE CURRENT AUTUMN EXHIBIT IN THE GREAT HALL GALLERY IS



FEATURING:

CAROL SCHRANTZ

Carol's works have appeared on Poetry Radio, WGLT and in print in an anthology of Illinois poets titled WHERE WE LIVE, in Common Ground Review and several local publications. She has served on the advisory board of RHINO Magazine, a Chicago based poetry periodical.

WILMA HAERR

Wilma has been writing poetry for many years. She has published booklets and is represented in FROM A WINDOW- Wistful Thoughts and in FOREVER SPOKEN. She won the Editor's Choice Award in March, 2008 for the International Library of Poetry.

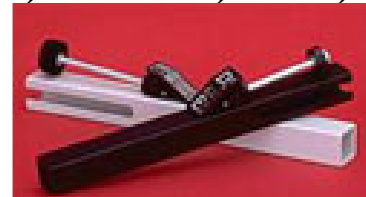
GINNY NAPPI

Ginny wanted to write poetry for several years. Inspired by a packet of poems written by her father, she joined Kathleen Kirk's Workshop three years ago.

REV. SUSAN BALLER-SHEPARD

Susan studied creative writing at the University of Iowa undergraduate Writer's Workshop, and at ISU with Dr. Lucia Cordell Getsi. Her writing has appeared in the Chicago Tribune, the Washington Post "On Faith," Spirituality & Health, Writer's Digest, Horizons, Alive Now, Church & Society, along with a number of other publications, etc. She feels very blessed that for the past eight years she's been able to read her poetry at Chicago Printer's Row Lit Fest, with her poems being published in Outrider Press anthologies. She is completing her second poetry manuscript and is blogging at Patheos, a religion web site, www.patheos.com/blogs/transient. While these four poems are free verse, Susan loves writing form poetry, especially villanelles and pantoums.

Christmas Chime Choir



We are looking for eight adults who would like to learn to play chimes during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Rehearsals will be Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m. beginning October 26. They are fun, easy to play and make beautiful sounds.

RSVP to Phil
penge@firstpresnormal.org.