



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

## JANUARY FIRST FOCUS

ISSUE DATE : 1/4/12

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



### JANUARY 8

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

### JANUARY 15

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

### JANUARY 22

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

### JANUARY 29

Worship – 8:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.  
9:45 a.m. Church School  
Noon – Annual Report Q & A  
Congregational Meeting

### FEBRUARY 5

Worship/Communion – 8:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.  
9:45 a.m. Church School  
9:35 a.m. Congregational Meeting

## ADVENT UNDECORATING

### JANUARY 8

AT NOON

FOLLOWING SECOND SERVICE

LUNCH PROVIDED.

ALL HELP IS GREATLY APPRECIATED

Dear Friends,

In 2012 we will emphasize our calling to be a welcoming community of faith. This ministry of welcome is a strength of First Presbyterian Church.

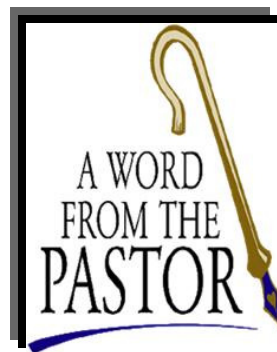
Many have felt the gracious care of our congregation, as visitors, relatives, friends and family of the bereaved, the ill and the needy.

During the year we will focus on ways to respond with Christian love to all the people whose lives intersect with ours--all those whom the Lord sends to us and places in our path.

Pray and be alert for ministry opportunities with all kinds of people, in church and community.

Be open to special moments to demonstrate Christ's hospitality.

Once again I thank the congregation for your remarkable kindness toward my mother, my brother, and our family. Your love has sustained us through a difficult time. My prayers are also with those who became close to Doris as a friend, and are grieving her loss.



God bless you always, Larry



**DORIS BULLOCK GAYLORD**  
May 29, 1920 – December 11, 2011

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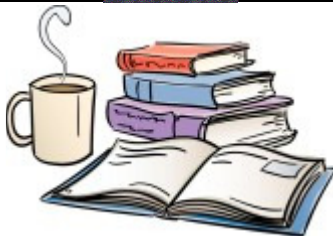


**Important  
Information**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
ANNUAL REPORT  
QUESTION & ANSWER  
JANUARY 29 - NOON**  
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**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 5 - 9:35 A.M.**

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

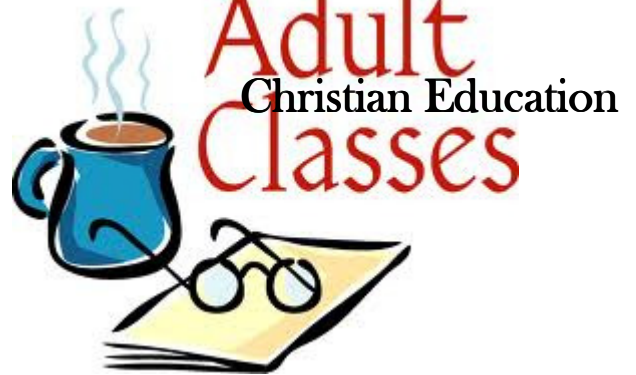
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**CHILDCARE** is available at worship services  
through kindergarten age.

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Sunday Morning - 9:45 a.m.



**Winter 2012**

**BODY-BUILDING**

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

**CROSS TRAINING**

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

**Making Sense of Scripture**

January 8-February 19

**What is the Bible? Is the Bible true?**

**Where did the Bible come from?**

Participants in this class will seek answers to these and several other important questions as we make sense of Scripture together.

**Facilitated by:** Steve Yahnig & friends  
Great Hall

**STRENGTH TRAINING**

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

**LIVING LUKEWARM?**

**BREAK FREE FROM THE AMERICAN DREAM  
AND SET YOUR FAITH ON FIRE**

January 8-February 19

**What if God created us for something more than the American Dream?**

What if we stopped trying to "have it all" and GAVE our all instead- to God and to the people of this world? That's what Jesus did for us, and it's what He calls His followers to do as well. We don't want to live lukewarm... we want a faith on fire! So let's join together to learn about the God who is crazy about us, who calls us to be a little "crazy" for Him.

**Facilitated by:** Dave & Cara McMorris  
Library

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if **YOU**  
come  
it will  
make a  
difference.

**MEN'S PRAYER GROUP**  
6:30 - 7:15 a.m. Lounge  
This group is open to all men.  
Next meeting dates: January 9 & 23

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## **GIVE BLOOD**



## **SAVE LIFE**

**FIRST PRES BLOOD DRIVE**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 30**  
**4:00 - 7:30 PM.**

Last date to donate blood and be eligible for this drive is Dec.5. Sign up in Narthex would be appreciated.

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## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**STAFF, COMMITTEE & CHURCH GROUP CHAIRS:**  
Please have your **2011 year-end report** to Carol no later than Friday, January 6, 2012.

You can leave your report in my mailbox or e-mail [welcome@firstpresnormal.org](mailto:welcome@firstpresnormal.org)



**Marianne Bullard & Family**, on the death of her son, David  
**Pastor Larry Gaylord & Family** on the death of his mother, Doris  
**Willa Whitworth**  
**Lynn Litwiller & Family** on the deaths of her stepdad, Bill Haueisen and grandmother, Julia Bower  
**Dolores Theile**, infection, Dave's mom  
**Andy Hinegardner**, infection  
**Joey, 8 yr old cancer patient**, rhabdomyosarcoma  
**Janice Kirk**, Chelsea Pokrzywinski's mother, cardiac procedure  
**Faith Ten Haken's nephew**, pacemaker  
**Susan Lykkebak Smith**, lung cancer, sister of Nan Rutledge  
**John Johnston**  
**Margaret Foster**  
**David Merrick**, cancer, friend of Kelley Becker  
**Cecil Groetken**, on the loss of his wife, Lori, friend of Gary & Wendy Satchwell  
**Taryn Northrup**, medulloblastoma, niece of Debbie Hanchett  
**Bill, Pat & Rob Laughlin**

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*If you or your child(ren) seek,*

**Baptism**  
*please contact*  
**Pastors Gaylord or Bruner**

# NOTICE

APPLE & WHITE GRAPE JUICE  
needed.

Please put your donations  
in the upstairs kitchen.  
Thank you for  
your contributions.

Submitted by Nancy Wolter



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

(See article, page 5)



**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**  
is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the  
previous month.

## ATTENDANCE

12/11 - 346  
12/18 - 360  
12/24 - 251 (7 pm)  
12/25 - 93  
1/1 - 155



**ELDER/DEACON  
ORDINATION/INSTALLATION**  
December 18



### ELDERS:

Amanda Cryer  
Patty Kelly  
Lori Kennedy  
Matt Litwiller  
Steve Yahnig  
Kylie Thompson (youth elder)

### DEACONS:

Ginny Clarahan  
Edie Erzen  
Gloria Kelley  
Fred & LaVon Schultz



Paint/cut/paste the January blues away.

Come join the Artists Among Us for

**ART on TUESDAYS**

1:30-3:00 p.m. Lounge

January 10, 17, 24, 31

Questions? E-mail Margaret at

[wolfland@gridcom.net](mailto:wolfland@gridcom.net)

or call 309-747-2868.

## CARE & SHARE FOOD COLLECTION

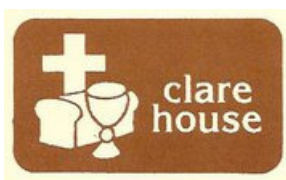


Our congregation has participated in this ministry to Food Sites for several decades. The program has profited from leadership of Elizabeth Weir and many volunteers who take contributions to Clare House, Home Sweet Home and Salvation Army.

As Deacon's Mission Promotion has taken responsibility for Care and Share, there are several changes which will be attempted in 2011:

- ! Special emphasis on collection of food on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month.
- ! Focus on agency receiving donations in **First Focus**. Specially needed items will be highlighted.
- ! Money donations are acceptable in lieu of bringing groceries.

*For further information, or to volunteer assistance. Call Fred Schultz 829-9215*



JANUARY

Founded by Tina Sipula 33 years ago in Bloomington, special needs are being experienced at weekly distribution Wed and Fri at 1 pm at 703 E. Washington. Tina says, "Lines are longer than I've ever seen" **Needed: tuna, chili, stew, macaroni & cheese, canned fruit; feminine items, blankets, diapers/wipes and baby food.**

Submitted by Dave Eaton



- 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, Daniel Sutton, Connor Herbert
- Feb. 8** Christy Bartel
- Feb. 10** Jane Brue, Jeff Bartel
- Feb. 11** Amanda Trimble
- Feb. 13** Jim Thompson, Dana Anderson
- Feb. 14** Jaiden Mousty
- Feb. 15** Ken 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

## PREACHING SCHEDULE WINTER 2012

### RECIPE FOR RELATIONSHIPS:

Key ingredients for us to become the “one-another” people God wants us to be



Have you ever started cooking something- baking a cake, roasting a turkey, or grilling burgers- and realized halfway through that you’re missing a key ingredient? The whole endeavor grinds to a halt until you get that cup of flour, sprig of thyme, or bottle of ketchup. You could try to go on without it, but the end results would be less than satisfying.

It’s the same way in our relationships- in our marriages, families, and friendships. If we want these relationships to turn out healthy and strong, there are some key ingredients we can’t go without.

The writers of the New Testament knew something about this. When they write about how we are to relate to one another, they often use this Greek word, *allos*. It means “one-another” and it shows up 58 times in the New Testament. Each time, it’s paired with a verb- some practical way we are to live and act toward one another, especially within the family of faith.

This winter, we’re cooking up some killer connections. We’re reading the Recipe for Relationships, and putting together all the key ingredients for us to become the “one-another” people God wants us to be.

DATE	THEME	TEXT	TEXT
1/15	<b>Recipe for Relationships: Love</b> <i>Laying down our lives for one another</i>	John 15:9-17	1 John 3:16-18; 4:7-12
1/22	<b>Recipe for Relationships: Accountability</b> <i>Bearing one another’s burdens</i>	Matthew 11:25-30	Galatians 6:1-5
1/29	<b>Recipe for Relationships: Prayer</b> <i>Pray for one another</i>	John 14:1-14	James 5:13-16
2/5	<b>Recipe for Relationships: Forgiveness</b> <i>Forgive one another</i>	Matthew 18:21-35	Colossians 3:1-14
2/12	<b>Recipe for Relationships: Humility</b> <i>Submit to one another</i>	John 13:1-17	Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33
2/19	<b>Recipe for Relationships: Encouragement</b> <i>Encourage one another</i>	Isaiah 40:28-31	Hebrews 10:19-25



**“PER CAPITA” FOR 2012** is \$28 for each member of First Presbyterian Church. This money supports the work of Presbytery (\$17.69), Synod of Lincoln Trails (\$3.81), and General Assembly (\$6.50).

The Presbytery of Great Rivers is blessed to have the fine leadership of Rev. Sue Krummel, presbytery executive. The per capita offering supports Rev. Krummel’s salary and ministry.

Your help with the per capita amount of \$28 for each member in your household is greatly appreciated. Envelopes are available in the pew racks during the month of January.

Pastor Gaylord

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**TO NEW MEMBER**  
(December 14, 2011)

**TIMOTHY PANTALEONE**  
**1608 MARTIN LUTHER KING DR.**  
**BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701**  
**530-1699**



Dear Family and Friends,

We are expecting to spend February 2012 in Colombia SA as part of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Accompaniment program.

One of the ways we'd like to communicate with you is a blog. The address is <http://eatoncolombiamission.blogspot.com>

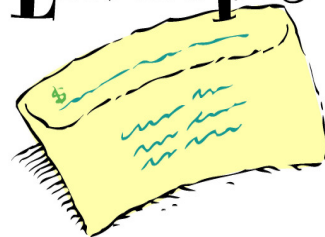
We will plan to update it at least weekly, and to include some pictures and possibly even some video material.

We have posted a letter and some material about the Colombian program, as well as some background about Colombia and why we applied to go.

Anne & Dave Eaton

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## 2012 Offering Envelopes



are located in the main hallway  
Please note the church address has **NOT**  
been preprinted on the envelope.  
Sign your name and the envelope number  
on the record sheet.



*Wishing you a New Year filled with  
new hope, new joy and new beginnings*