

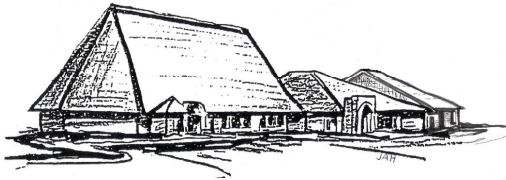
# FIRST FOCUS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2000 E. COLLEGE AVE.  
NORMAL, IL 61761  
309-452-4459  
ISSUE DATE : 8/11/10

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS A  
LIFELINE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE  
TO FIND, LOVE AND SERVE JESUS.**



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**AUGUST 15**

Worship  
8:30 a.m. /10:00 a.m.

**AUGUST 22**

Worship  
8:30 a.m. /10:00 a.m.

**AUGUST 29**

Worship  
10:00 a.m. only  
(see page 6)

**SEPTEMBER 5**

Worship  
10:00 a.m. only

**SEPTEMBER 12**

Fall worship hours begin  
Worship/Communion  
8:30 a.m./ 11:00 a.m.  
Church School - 9:45 a.m.

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**Dear brothers & sisters in  
Christ,**

Last year we called it the “**Fall Kickoff**”. This year it’s the “**Summer Celebration**”. Every year it’s a don’t-miss-it event, an opportunity to gather with our entire church family to celebrate God’s goodness to us all.

The **Summer Celebration** is happening Sunday, August 29, starting at 10:00 a.m. We’ll worship God together, eat good food together, talk and play together! What more could you want? As far as I’m concerned, it’s the best way to end one great season and gear up for the next!

This is also a wonderful event to invite your friends or family to attend! Over half of all new church members in America, when asked how they found out about their church, said that they came because a friend or family member *invited* them to come. How amazing is that? We could spend all the money in the world on having a flashy website, giant billboards, newspaper ads, and crazy gimmicks, but that would only get us so far. The majority of people who are not affiliated with a church are simply waiting to be asked.

Is there someone in your life who might be waiting for just such an invitation? Take a moment and ask God that very question. See what names or faces come to mind. Might God be calling you to step out of your comfort zone a little bit and invite that person to church with you?

We’ll make it easy for you. *Stop by the church office and pick up an invitation or two to our **Summer Celebration**.* Carry them around in your pocket or purse so when you run into that person who came to mind, you’ll be ready to go to invite them! It’s as simple as that.

Friends, God has given us an amazing gift in the love He pours out on us through His Son Jesus Christ. Why wouldn’t you want to share that gift with everyone you meet?



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**WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE**

8/1 - 233

8/8 - 256

**In Christ, Pastor Becca**



**PAULINE BLIMLING**  
November 16, 1928 – August 2, 2010

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN**



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



**BOOK STUDY GROUP**  
ON HIATUS UNTIL MID  
AUGUST

**MEN'S' BIBLE STUDY**  
SATURDAYS - 8:00 A.M.  
COFFEEHOUSE  
UPTOWN NORMAL



**NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE  
AUGUST 18**

**AUGUST  
HOME SWEET HOME**

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



**Jim & Carla York**, cancer, friends of Nancy Annegers; **Mike Hargesheimer**, cancer, brother-in-law of Marilyn; **The Family of Pauline Blimling; Coen Wallgren & Family**, friends of Trisha & Mike Dowd; **Sheila**, mother of Kim Toulon; **David Merrick**, cancer, friend of Kelley Becker; **Russ & Anita Carney**, neighbors of Kathy & Terry Tosh; **Nancy Johnson**, cancer, Susan Rink's mother; **John Kirk**, cardiac issues, Chelsea Pokrzywinski's dad; **Gale Clinton**, Christy Bartel's dad; **Geoffrey**, Ann Farnsworth's grandson; **Shirley Ladue**; **Doris Rice**, mesothelioma, Kevin's mother; **Kathy Carmody**, cancer & **Becky Stubbs**, CF, friends of the Chapmans; **John Johnston; Ralph Rodriguez; Andy Sadoun**, deployed to Iraq, Kehl Family friend; **Paul & Annette Rutledge**, friends of Shelley Bruning; **Margaret Foster; Jackson Jones**, nephew of Faith Ten Haken, heart surgery; **Roger Benckendorf**, brother of Kurt; **Doug Miller**, cancer, brother of Faith Ten Haken; **Karen Lindquist**, lung cancer, sister of Julie Buckles



**CHILDCARE**  
**IS AVAILABLE**  
**AT WORSHIP**  
**SERVICES**  
**THROUGH**  
**KINDERGARTEN**  
**AGE.**

**WORSHIP BAGS**  
**ARE OFFERED FOR CHILDREN**  
**IN WORSHIP AND**  
**LOCATED IN THE**  
**MAIN HALLWAY DESK.**



**\$IDEWALK FUND**

Needed repairs to the sidewalk at the main entrance to the church and repairs to the parking lot near the dumpster have been completed.

The total cost of the project is \$11,387. Would you like to contribute to this effort? Your donations are welcome. Checks should be made to First Presbyterian Church, and marked "Sidewalks".

**CONGREGATIONAL**  
**MEETING**  
**SUNDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 12**  
**9:35 a.m.**  
**Election of Officers**



**MEN'S PRAYER GROUP**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 23**  
**6:45 - 7:15 A.M. LOUNGE**

**THIS GROUP IS OPEN TO ALL MEN**  
**AND MEETS EVERY TWO WEEKS**  
**TO DISCUSS VARIOUS TOPICS.**  
**NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 6**

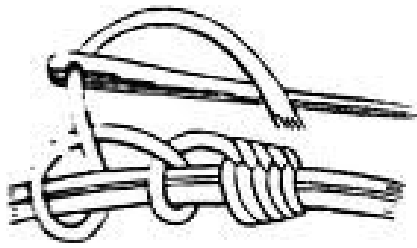
**PREACHING SCHEDULE**  
**LOST & FOUND**

DATE	THEME & SCRIPTURE
8/15	<b>THE LOST YOUNGER SON:</b> <b>"GIVE ME MINE"</b> <b>PSALM 14</b> <b>LUKE 15:11-20</b>
8/22	<b>THE LOST OLDER SON:</b> <b>"YOU NEVER GAVE ME ANYTHING!"</b> <b>PSALM 51</b> <b>LUKE 15:11-32</b>
8/29	<b>THE PRODIGAL FATHER:</b> <b>"WE HAD TO CELEBRATE"</b> <b>ISAIAH 25:1-9</b> <b>LUKE 15:11-32</b>



**Presbytery of Great Rivers**  
**Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering**  
 September 18  
 FPC, Farmington  
 Theme: Look What God Can Do Through Us"  
 Tickets: \$7

Deadline: September 13  
 RSVP: Wanda Ohaver 309-245-2010  
 Call Laura Gowdy (452-2051)  
 if you need transportation



## **KNIT & CROCHET MINISTRY**

As we start thinking about fall and the church program year being right around the corner, if you knit or crochet, I invite you to be part of our knitting and crocheting ministry.

We meet in the chapel on the second Sunday of each month beginning September 12, 9:45 a.m.

Yarn has been donated to our group so there is no need to buy any. We are making prayer shawls, some are donated to Neville House, and some are shared with church members, family and friends.

We also have been making baby afghans for new little ones in our congregation, and patchwork afghans, which we are donating to Project Linus.

New project ideas include stocking hats for local school children before winter, chemo caps and infant hats for preemies (patterns provided for all).

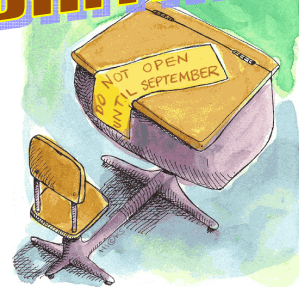
So what do you want to do in this new season? I invite you to join this small group where together we might do three things: share joys and concerns, enjoy fellowship around our common interests, and work together to do something for other people less fortunate or those in need of a spiritual boost.

Questions? Contact Becky Mentzer at 826-1308 or [becky.mentzer@gmail.com](mailto:becky.mentzer@gmail.com).

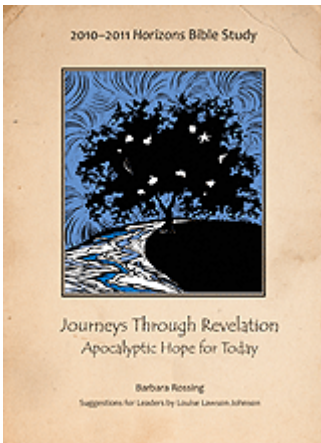
Also please contact Becky or one of the pastors if you would like to share a prayer shawl or baby afghan with someone. We have many different colors, shapes and sizes available.



## **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**



- Sept. 1** Lisa Fehrman
- Sept. 3** Sue O'Neal
- Sept. 4** Becky Ehredt
- Sept. 5** Amy Ellington,  
Andrea Hinegardner
- Sept. 6** Lila Gardner, Carol Brewer
- Sept. 7** Carol Schrantz, Reid Leber,  
Karen Kinley
- Sept. 9** Joe Painter
- Sept. 10** Nancy Lott, Kevin Haas
- Sept. 11** Jennifer Florence,  
Elizabeth Cobert
- Sept. 12** Garland Lacey, Andy Heikes
- Sept. 13** Shirley Lacey, Jana Mortimer  
Judy Woodward, Jim Presley
- Sept. 15** Janet Peters,  
Marie Nebel-Schwalm
- Sept. 16** Dorothy Koppenhoefer,  
Todd Smith, Joe Benscoter
- Sept. 17** Byron Benscoter, Barb Bouas,  
Dan Holland, Jonathan Rink,  
Kurt Kinley
- Sept. 18** Mons Schrantz, Susan Frank
- Sept. 19** Pat Parsons, Donna Leamer
- Sept. 20** Kiley Swearingen, Miller Eaton
- Sept. 21** Bob Ward
- Sept. 22** David Brent, William Maier
- Sept. 23** Becca Rice, Barb Reinagle-Cox
- Sept. 24** Jerry Ringer, Phil Enge,  
Lori Kennedy, Dana Winters
- Sept. 25** Ken Doss, Blake Meyer
- Sept. 26** Edna Johnston, Mollye Cooper,  
Brad Waldhoff
- Sept. 28** Peggy Grove, Steve Barwick
- Sept. 29** Patty Carlson, Angella Riddle
- Sept. 30** Rachel Wilson



**MARIANNE CIRCLE**  
**2010-11**  
**Horizons Bible Study**  
**Book of Revelation**

Our study of Revelation will begin September 15 and run through May. We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 1:30 p.m. in the church lounge. All women welcome.

Study sessions include a brief social time; business meeting and study/discussion of our designated study topic.

Please contact Louise Crumpler (454-1837) for a study book. Deadline for ordering is August 23. Payment should be made to Louise upon receipt of book.



**FIRST PRES AT THE BALLPARK:**

Join us for summer fun at a Normal CornBelts baseball game.

**Sunday, August 22**

Bring your family & friends.

Game starts at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7.

Contact Aaron Lock ([aaronlock68@yahoo.com](mailto:aaronlock68@yahoo.com) or 287-6612) by August 16 or sign up at the church to reserve your seats!

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

**THE GREAT BANQUET**

**SEPTEMBER 9-12**  
**MEN'S WEEKEND**

**SEPTEMBER 23-26**  
**WOMEN'S WEEKEND**

Contact Pastor Becca Bruner if you are interested

**SMALL HOUSEHOLD GOODS COLLECTION for CONGOLESE REFUGEES**

Dishes, silverware, glasses, cooking items, linens and other small household goods are needed by Congolese emigrants who are settling in our community. Collection boxes are at both entry doors.

In a recent program in the Great Hall we learned that more than 5.4 million men, women and children have been killed in the Congo wars since 1998, 45,000 every month. Children under five account for nearly 50% of the deaths. Using rape as a weapon of war, militants have raped over 300,000 women. No wonder Congolese are fleeing the chaos in their country.

Some of the conflict occurs when groups steal valuable minerals used in cell phones. We can help in some small measure by recycling our phones so that less of these minerals are needed. Take your phones to the electronic bin in the southeast corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot on Veterans.

**Submitted by Judy Stone**

# Summer Celebration!

**Get it in GEAR!**

**Sunday, August 29, 2010**

## **All-Church Worship**

10:00am ~~ Big Tent

**Music, Teaching, & Communion**

## **Lunch**

11:30am ~~ Great Hall

**Pulled Pork Sandwiches & Drinks  
provided**

**Bring a side or a dessert to share**

## **Fun for the Whole Family**

12:00-2:00pm ~~ Back Lawn

**Bouncehouse, Bags Tournament,  
Games**



**Love the earth!  
Ride Your Bike  
to Church  
Sunday!**



Sign up for lunch in the  
friendship folders on Sunday  
or by contacting the church  
office