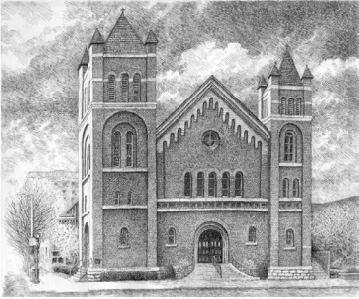


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
321 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET  
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS 62701

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**May 16, 2006**



FIRST PRES

# UPDATE

*The monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church*

*May 2006*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

321 S. 7th Street  
Springfield Illinois 62701  
(217) 528-4311  
[www.first-pres-church.org](http://www.first-pres-church.org)

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**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**WORSHIP/CLASSES**  
**Sundays:**  
9:00 a.m. Youth and Adult Programs  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sanctuary  
**Wednesdays:**  
5:30 p.m. Vespers

Please submit all information for inclusion in the newsletter to the church office to Cindy or Mike Orr at the e-mail addresses listed above.

Editorial Coordinator-Mike Orr  
Production-Cindy Cass

## 🎵 The Jane Hartman Trio 🎵

is a multiple winner of the Illinois Times' "Best Jazz Combo" category, and has represented the city of Springfield Illinois on tours of Japan in 1995 and 1997. The Trio toured England in September 2002 with the Fleming Academy. The Trio appeared at MacMurray College in October 2000, in a lecture recital with Harvard University jazz historian and clarinetist Frank Tirro, and again with Sarah and Rachel Caswell in April 2002. The Trio most recently fronted for John Pizzarelli in July 2004 at the "Summer Fun and All That Jazz" festival held at Lincoln Land Community College. The Trio regularly performs at Springfield's Lime Street Café.

The Jane Hartman Trio has become a Pentecost Sunday tradition in providing music for worship at First Presbyterian Church. They will be with us on Sunday, June 4, 2006 for the 10:30 a.m. worship service. To learn more about Jane Hartman and her ensemble, go to [www.janehartman.com](http://www.janehartman.com).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS for SUNDAY JUNE 11**  
**for the**  
**50 YEAR AND NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON.**  
**Watch the June newsletter for more information.**

## "Sound it out."

Many of you know that I keep a journal, and over the years, my journal entries have included things the Hayes children have said.

The year was 1982. Jonas was four years old, Jonathan was three. They were sitting at the kitchen counter in the manse on Howard Street. Each boy had a popsicle. Jonas said, "Jonathan, mine is better than yours. Yours is yucky, real yucky. Do you want to trade?" Jonathan did, and they both felt like they got a great deal.

On November 14, 1985, Jonathan was five years old and excited about reading and learning. He had a friend over for the day, and Jonathan was trying to teach his friend how to read, pointing to words and telling his friend to sound them out. After a while Jonathan's friend said, "My mom sent me over here to play."

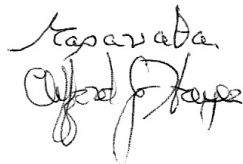
Of course, each one of us is a unique individual, with our own likes and dislikes, our own gifts, our own strengths. It's easy to find people who share some of those qualities with us and to get along with them. But how can we grow unless we find a way to communicate with those who have different interests or strengths, to "sound it out" with those who hold different views?

Oxford Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, in his book *The Dignity of Difference: How to Avoid the Clash of Civilizations*, provides food for the mind: "Too often in today's world, groups speak to themselves, not to one another: Jews to Jews, Christians to fellow Christians, Muslims to Muslims, business leaders, economists and global protesters to their respective constituencies. The proliferation of channels of communication, e-mails, chat-groups, the Internet, online journals, and the thousands of cable and satellite television channels, means that we no longer broadcast. We narrowcast. Gone are the days where people of different views were forced to share an arena and thus meet and reason with their opponents. Today, we can target those who agree with us and screen out the voices of dissent." (Sacks, p. 2)

While we have come to cherish the abundance of gifts that diversity brings to our communities, we can also find ourselves wary, even terrified, of that same diversity. To open ourselves to other points of view is difficult: what happens when I realize that someone very different from me is right? How does that challenge my own views?

Our inclination may well be to defend what we know as familiar and right. But unless we generate the intellectual, political, and spiritual imagination that can enlarge all of us together, is it too much to say that we will be diminished as a global family?

We must sound out and include the alien in thought, mind, and deed, even if it means going as far as the room next door.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hayes" on the top line and "Alfred J. Hayes" on the bottom line.

PS - If perfect love casts out fear, then what does perfect fear do?



## Presbyterian Women's News

### Items for Mission Still Needed

The Presbyterian Women are collecting donated items for Presbytery missions in Chicago and overseas. The items will be sent on the first of June. Most of the items have already been assembled by members of the coordinating team. However, a few items are still needed for personal hygiene kits and school supply kits!

Needed for the personal kits are: combs/brushes, toothpaste, deodorant, manicure items, shaving needs, sanitary pads and tampons, and hand and body lotion.

Needed for the school kits are: pencils, ball point pens, scotch tape, crayons, pads of notebook paper, rulers and glue.

Please give all donated items to Barbara VonBehren or Rhonda Downing, or bring them to the church office by the end of May, so they can be shipped to their destinations by early June. Thank you!

### Mark Your Calendar - Pentecost Brunch

Pentecost Sunday is June 4. The Presbyterian Women will offer a Sunday morning brunch in Fellowship Hall following services. All are invited to attend and share this meal together for a nominal fee. New Presbyterian Women officers will be installed.

## LECTIONARY FOR MAY 2006

7th: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

14th: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

21st: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

28th: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

# Children and

## Children Experience Pentecost throughout May

Your children will experience the power of the Holy Spirit by learning about fire and wind and the birth of the church, all during the month of May. Sunday School begins at 9am and ends at 10:15am each Sunday. *There will be no Sunday School on May 28, due to Memorial Day weekend.* Children's Sunday School concludes for the year on Sunday, June 4, with a Pentecost celebration your children won't want to miss.

## Confirmants to Join Church

On Pentecost Sunday, June 4, members of the confirmation class will join the church during morning worship. These middle school youth have been meeting since January, learning more about the Bible, the church creeds, and their own Denomination; as well as others. After worship the Presbyterian Women are hosting a luncheon for our confirmants and in celebration of Pentecost, the birthday of the church. Look in the June newsletter to learn more about this year's confirmation class.

## Triple S Begins June 14

As we look toward summer, many of us start accumulating that stack of good books we hope to read while the weather's warm. As you are building your stack, add another to the pile and come enjoy Triple S. Triple S stands for **Summer Sermon Study**. We will be gathering on Wednesday evenings at 7pm to delve into some of the best sermons ever written by some of the best preachers who have ever lived. Since we are studying sermons, the readings are short but powerful and they all come from the same book, *A Chorus of Witnesses*. Twenty copies of this book have been ordered and will be at the church beginning in May. They will be available for \$15 each. The class will meet each Wednesday throughout the summer, but is designed so that you may drop in and out as your schedule permits. If you are interested or have any questions please email Tasha at [tasha@first-pres-church.org](mailto:tasha@first-pres-church.org) or call her at the church.

## We Need You for a Work Day on June 21

The children's area is adding a computer lab! The computers have been purchased but we need lots of hands to help clean, organize, paint and set up the room. There are also several other items on our "to-do" list as we straighten and spruce up the children's areas in preparation for summer activities, including hosting VBS in August. If you can clean or paint or help in any way, please join us on Wednesday, June 21 from 9am-1pm. All you need is work clothes and elbow grease. If you would like to sign up to come, you can call Tasha at 528-4311 or email [tasha@first-pres-church.org](mailto:tasha@first-pres-church.org). There will also be sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall the first three Sundays of June.

## Summer Sunday Events

While children's weekly Sunday School ends on June 4, the Christian Nurture Committee of First Presbyterian will be hosting three monthly events for children and their families on the third Sunday of each summer month (June 18, July 16, August 20). These events are intended for children *and* their families. Parents and younger siblings are not only invited to these events; these events are specifically designed for them! Each time we meet, we will together think about and experience a specific question. In June we will focus on "What is family?" These events will take place on Sunday mornings during the regular Sunday School time, 9:00-10:15. You and your entire family (grandparents can come too!) won't want to miss these monthly opportunities.



## **Atlanta pastor is Fourth candidate for moderator of General Assembly**

### **Joan S. Gray is seasoned leader, authority on Presbyterian polity and governance**

LOUISVILLE - The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta has unanimously endorsed the Rev. Joan S. Gray as a candidate for moderator of the 217th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Gray is the fourth candidate for moderator. She joins the Rev. Kerry Carson, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Conrad, IA; the Rev. Tim Halvorson, of Faith Presbyterian Church in Cape Coral, FL; and the Rev. Deborah Block, pastor of Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee, WI.

The election will be held at the start of the Assembly on June 15, in Birmingham, AL.

Gray is a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary (1976) who has served as an adjunct faculty member there and also has taught at Johnson C. Smith Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary. She was ordained by Atlanta Presbytery of the former Presbyterian Church in the United States in 1978.

Gray has served seven churches in the Atlanta area, most recently as interim pastor of College Park Presbyterian Church. In addition, she has extensive and varied experience in leadership positions at the presbytery and General Assembly levels of the PC(USA). She was moderator of Greater Atlanta presbytery for one term, and has served on numerous presbytery committees.

An authority on denominational polity and governance, Gray is co-author of Presbyterian Polity for Church Officers. She has been moderator of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission and of the PC (USA)'s Advisory Committee on the Constitution. Through five General Assemblies before and after Presbyterian reunion in 1983, she served on the Provisional Constitutional Committee that devised the PC(USA)'s constitution.

Gray is a trustee of the Thornwell Home and School for Children, and serves on the boards of directors of the DeKalb Rape Crisis Center and the Presbyterian Outlook Foundation. She is an honorary life member of Presbyterian Women.

In its endorsement of her candidacy, Greater Atlanta hailed Gray as "a healing leader whose desires and abilities would allow the church to clearly hear other leaders and would help to point the church into a spiritual renewal that would allow the church, with the help of God, to become its best self."

Jerry L. Van Marter



**HAPPY  
MOTHER'S  
DAY**



# Happenings

## **BENEFIT LUNCHEON and CARD PARTY**



**Wednesday, May 10, 2006  
1:00 - 4:00 P.M.  
Fair Hills Residence  
Illinois Presbyterian Home  
Sponsored by Our Volunteers  
Tickets \$7.00**

## Poetry Lovers' Evening

The Poetry Group meets on May 19, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Roy and Joann Wehrle. All poetry lovers are welcome. Bring favorite books to suggest to and share with the group. Copies are helpful but not necessary. And bring a friend.

~ Roy & Joann Wehrle

## YogaFit Class:

We will have one more session of classes before breaking for the summer. Class will meet for all the Thursdays in May and on June 8 and 15. (The Instructor will be on vacation on June 1.) The six-week session will cost \$50.00, with the usual drop-in rate of \$10.00. If you have any questions, please call Cris Martin at 793-1933.



## Health and Healing Ministry Team

An opportunity to give and receive...

After months of study and exploration, First Presbyterian Church has decided to create a Health and Healing Ministry Team to fulfill the role of a parish nurse. Rather than have one person in the role of "caregiver" for the congregation, our belief is that a team will be more effective in meeting these needs. Session approved this concept at their March meeting and Deacons also endorsed the concept.

**How will this team operate??** The main goal is to match needs of the congregation with strengths of the team members. One important aspect of this endeavor is that ANYONE from our congregation is welcome to become part of the team. The only requirement is that you are passionate about helping and caring for others. We are a fluid group that hopefully will adapt to the changing needs of the congregation.

**How will the team learn about the needs of our congregation??** Several options will be provided, including requests through the pastors, requests through team members and Health and Healing Ministry Team "boxes" which will be provided in the narthex and Fellowship Hall where members can submit written requests.

**What are some examples of needs??** Requests can be specific or general. Someone may have a medical question or concern, or may need to find a speaker in a particular topic or help finding a health care resource (nursing home facility, social service agency, etc.) The team could also simply provide someone to talk to about a health care need. If the team members themselves are unable to help, they will work to find someone who can.

The Health and Healing Ministry Team will be hosting a forum on Wednesday, MAY 10, to gather input from the congregation. Listen and watch for details about this meeting. Give it a try!



# This -n- That

## Food Bank

The food item requested for the month of May is **SPAM**. (You might want to get the “lite” variety.) Here are a few facts to ruminate on while you are shopping for SPAM. Did you know that:

**SPAM** has a website ([www.spam.com](http://www.spam.com))?

There’s a SPAM Museum? (read about it on the website)

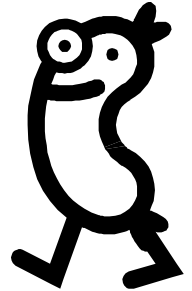
There are annual contests in several states (including Illinois) and nationally for recipes using SPAM? (Last year’s national winner was “Island Teriyaki Bites”.)

**SPAM**’s ingredients are pork shoulder, ham (mostly) and spices?

The product was introduced in 1937 and the name, a combination of SP from spiced and AM from ham, was the winning entry in a naming contest (it was submitted by the brother of a Hormel company vice president)?

The trademark is registered in 101 countries and 3.6 cans are produced every second (over 5 billion sold)?

Hawaiians consume more SPAM per person than residents of any other state?



### Christians - By Maya Angelou

When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'."  
I'm whispering "I was lost,  
Now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I don't speak of this with pride.  
I'm confessing that I stumble  
and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not trying to be strong.  
I'm professing that I'm weak  
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not bragging of success.  
I'm admitting I have failed  
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not claiming to be perfect,  
My flaws are far too visible  
But, God believes I am worth it.

When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I still feel the sting of pain.  
I have my share of heartaches  
So I call upon His name.

When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not holier than thou,  
I'm just a simple sinner  
Who received God's good grace, somehow!

### Parking – Did You Know?

Did you know that if you have a valid handicapped license plate or placard you may park in any metered parking spot (except 30 minutes meters) for as long as necessary without payment or fear of penalty?

### May 2006 Birthdays

- 1 Jacob Coble
- 2 John Murphy
- 3 Kim Howard, Catherine Korda
- 5 Judith Dees
- 6 Florence Anderson, Sara Mutman,  
Susan Patton, Katherine Pearson
- 7 Erin Holloway, Katie Raynolds
- 9 Tim Holloway, Elsie Roeder, Joan Rothfuss,  
Ruth Webster, Cindy Cass
- 10 Marjorie Bowers, Alex Pfaffe
- 11 Luann Atkins
- 15 Linda Grimm, Florence Herring
- 17 Alison Sanders
- 19 Gavin Schwermin
- 20 Glenn Kniss, Kate Seymore
- 21 Richard Amoako, Paul Parsons Moser
- 23 Blake Ackerman, Carla DeLay, Chris Schick
- 24 Frank Choi, Cliff Hayes, Ed Liddell
- 25 Emilie Kuner, Susan Turner
- 26 Cheryl Ecklund, Sarah Watson
- 27 John Akers, Jr., Justin Yakel
- 28 Clara Marie Young
- 30 Byron Luers, Melinda Robinson
- 31 Nancy Legg



*All activities take place in the church unless otherwise noted*

## **May 2006**

### **1\*MONDAY**

6:00 p.m. - Sertoma Club

### **2\*TUESDAY**

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study Section II

### **3\*WEDNESDAY**

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service

6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering

6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group

- Film Club

7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

- Friends of the Sangamon Valley Board

### **4\*THURSDAY**

12:00 p.m. - Personnel Committee

5:30 p.m. - Yoga Class

6:30 p.m. - World Affairs Council

7:00 p.m. - Deacons

- Parents Without Partners

- Society for Creative Anachronism

7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

- First Pres Book Club @ Barb VonBehren Home

### **5\*FRIDAY**

12:00 p.m. - Christian Nurture Committee

### **7\*SUNDAY**

8:15 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens

9:00 a.m. - Adult Programs

- Children's Sunday School

10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour

### **9\*TUESDAY**

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study Section II

### **10\*WEDNESDAY**

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service

6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering

6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group

- Film Club

7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### **11\*THURSDAY**

4:45 p.m. - Worship & Music Committee

5:30 p.m. - Yoga Class

6:30 p.m. - World Affairs Council

6:30 p.m. - Parents Without Partners

7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

### **12\*FRIDAY**

7:30 p.m. - Josh Hearn Recital

### **13\*SATURDAY**

6:00 p.m. - Second Saturday Supper Club

### **14\*SUNDAY**

8:15 a.m. - Chapel Worship Service

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens

9:00 a.m. - Adult Programming

- Children's Sunday School

- Confirmation Class

10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour

### **15\*MONDAY**

7:00 p.m. - Faith Circle

### **16\*TUESDAY**

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study Section II

### **17\*WEDNESDAY**

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service

6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering

6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group

- Film Club

### **18\*THURSDAY**

5:30 p.m. - Yoga Class

6:30 p.m. - World Affairs Council

7:00 p.m. - Session

- Society for Creative Anachronism

7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

### **19\*FRIDAY**

9:30 a.m. - Fairhills Circle

### **21\*SUNDAY**

8:15 a.m. - Chapel Worship Service

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens

9:00 a.m. - Adult Programming

- Children's Sunday School

10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour

4:00 p.m. - Spfld. Scholar Students Recital

### **23\*TUESDAY**

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study Section II

### **24\*WEDNESDAY**

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service

6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering

6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group

- Film Club

7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### **25\*THURSDAY**

5:15 p.m. - Central Illinois Organizing Project

5:30 p.m. - Yoga Class

6:30 p.m. - World Affairs Council

7:30 p.m. - First Pres Book Club @ Joan Rothfuss Home

- Alcoholics Anonymous

### **28\*SUNDAY**

8:15 a.m. - Chapel Worship Service

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens

9:00 a.m. - Adult Programming

- Children's Sunday School

- Confirmation Class

10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour

### **29\*MONDAY**

Church and Office closed for Memorial Day

### **30\*TUESDAY**

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study Section II

### **31\*WEDNESDAY**

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service

6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering

6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group

- Film Club

7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal