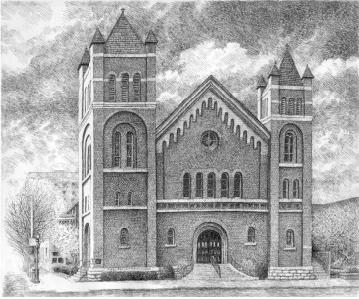


FIRST CHURCH
321 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS 62701

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DEADLINE for December issue:
November 16, 2006



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

UPDATE

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

November 2006

FIRST CHURCH
321 S. 7th Street
Springfield Illinois 62701
(217) 528-4311
www.lincolnschurch.org

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Mike Self, Security
SPARC, Janitorial

OFFICE HOURS

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

WORSHIP/CLASSES

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Adult Education Programs
8:15 a.m. Worship Service/Chapel
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 at the **e-mail address** listed above.

Editorial Coordinator and
Production-Cindy Cass

"Give and it will be given to you, a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your lap. The measure you give will be the measure that you get back." Luke 6:38

As our Stewardship Drive proceeds, you should have gotten a letter from Pastor Cliff Hayes, and soon you will be receiving a letter and pledge card from us. We hope this information helps to answer some of your questions or concerns.

We will be also doing an all member telephone canvas November 6 thru November 17. This will give you a chance to express your opinions and to receive answers to your questions that you have related to First Pres.

As we mentioned in our last month's newsletter, the budget is going up 2%, but we need to increase the pledge drive by 4.7% over our new base of \$298,699. This new base is lower than last years results due to deaths and transfers.

The Session approved the budget and pledge drive. They also passed a motion in support of additional funding for missions. The motion was, "That if we exceed the pledge drive, the excess pledges should be used to increase our mission support, up to an additional \$30,000." The 2007 budget reflects our mission support as the same as 2006.

Again for your information the 2007 budget reflects not taking more money out of the Trust Funds or St. Andrew's than we did in 2006, but still being able to fund an increase of 46.4% in utility costs.

With your prayerful consideration we ask that you return your pledge on or before Thanksgiving Sunday, November 19th, which is Pledge Sunday. Let us all be thankful for our blessings and in return use our pledge to further the mission of the church.

Clark and Kay McKee, Dan and June Greer Stewardship Chairs

Dear Friends,

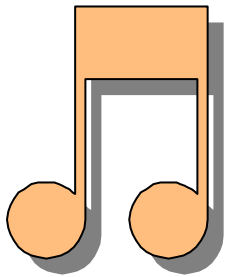
By the time this newsletter reaches your home, I will be enjoying what looks to be my last weekend off for a *long* time, before I bury myself in piles and piles of Roman Catholic liturgical books and diocesan documents. I'm trusting that by now, you already have heard the news that I have been called, and have accepted the call, to serve another church. On November 7, 2006, I will begin my new position as the Director of Music Ministries and Liturgy for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield and as the Associate Director of Music for the Diocese of Springfield.

There are many things I want you all to know, many things I wish to say, especially as I reflect over the three years I have spent with you. Most of all, I want you to know how much I appreciate you, how much you mean to me and how much you have impacted my life. At the beginning of our journey, three years ago, neither you nor I knew what to expect from each other. With God's help and guidance, we found our way and learned more than we ever expected.

I've always trusted in the Lord to lead me on the right path (I hope the same is true for you). But to be honest, I wasn't sure what He had planned when Monsignor Ossola called me from the Cathedral. I knew that in order to serve them, I had to leave you – and that was heartbreaking! Then I started to think of it another way, and I encourage you to do the same. I could never have been prepared to take on this new challenge without spending this time with you, growing and learning. I feel (I hope you feel likewise) that I have helped you to grow and learn as well, preparing you for what comes next.

We could spend an enormous amount of time worrying about the future: you about who will be your new Director of Music, me about how I will manage the 8 masses over Christmas for which I am now responsible. I challenge you instead to be thankful – for music, for God's omnipotent guidance, and for loving relationships.

Blessings,
Nichol DelGiorno



Advent Brown Bag Recital Series

- 11/29—Helen Reed, organ & harpsichord
- 12/6—Paula Irby, soprano with Archer Logan, saxophone
- 12/13—Krista Steller wind trio
- 12/20—“Dueling Organists” Nichol DelGiorno & Rudolf Zuiderveld

Recital time: 12:15-12:45pm

Admission is free, although donations are appreciated.

Brown Bag lunches will be available at the door for a bargain price





Holiday Craft and Bake Sale

Saturday, December 9
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Fellowship Hall



All of you “crafty” church members and friends
WE NEED YOUR CRAFT DONATIONS and BAKING TALENT!

We'll need LOTS of donations to make this a success! Please contact Cindy in the church office to find out how you can donate items or sign up to help during the sale. This is a major event that will raise funds for various needs to support the every day workings of the church.



Children and Youth



SAVE THE DATE!!

December 2, 2006

12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**Parent's Christmas Shopping Opportunity
Youth activities at church!**

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS AND/OR PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

If you are in college or if you know of one of our college bound youth, we would like your youth's address! We will be sending out care packages to our college bound youth letting them know they are in our thoughts and prayers despite the distance and busy schedules!

Please fill out the information below and insert into the offering plate or send it to:

First Presbyterian Church
321 Seventh Street
Springfield, IL 62701

We would like addresses turned in by November 12, 2006.

<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name _____	
Address _____	
City _____	State _____
Zip _____	

Youth and Family Ministries will be sending out care packages to First Presbyterian College Bound Youth the last week of November!

Donations for these packages would be much appreciated. A basket for these items will be located in the Narthex for easy drop-off. Ideas for items are: Post-It pads, pens, instant cocoa-cocoa, Ramen noodles, etc.

Anything you can think of that a student may need during finals! Please have items dropped off to the church by **November 19th**. Monetary donations for this ministry will be accepted as well. Let's show our youth that they may be far away (or not so far) and busy, but our thoughts and prayers are still with them!!!

Congratulations and best of luck to Selena Friar, Co-Director of Youth and Family Ministries! Selena was nominated by her professors and peers as Student President of the Sociology Department at UIS!



As a church family, we've all heard of the word "praise" throughout our lives. Praise literally means "to worship." We meet every Sunday in the sanctuary to praise God. Psalm 9:1 states, "I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders."

One example of those "wonders" is children. Each and every child is quite a wondrous miracle of God, from the time of conception. Pause to ponder just how miraculous it is that a fetus thrives and grows inside a mother's womb to grow into a human being. Now that is quite the miracle!

When God's miracles are presented to our congregation by their families for baptism, the church family members take an oath to aid in that child's Christian growth and to nurture them into adulthood. As these babies grow into toddlers, then into school-aged children, another definition of praise becomes important...that is the definition of praise that can be defined as, "the expression of approval, commendation, or admiration." This type of praise promotes feelings of self-worth, pride, and accomplishment.

If our congregation could not only teach these children how to "praise" God, but also "praise" them throughout their journey through life, we would really be involved in the ultimate creation of God's miracles! As a member of First Church, you have the opportunity to worship with your children and send them a word of praise to let them know that they are truly a miracle sent to us from God!!

Silos

Friends,



I hope this finds you well and that you are back in the swing of your church's fall schedule. I don't know what the markers of the fall are in your congregation. I have served churches near universities where the ballgame schedule affected church attendance in the fall, and even one church where the women would have to remind their husbands not to shoot within hearing distance of the church building on Sunday morning at the opening of the deer season. It used to make me nervous when I had to drive cross-country to get to the churches I was serving during hunting seasons. It was especially nerve-wracking when there were very few vehicles on the road and I could see a group of hunters advancing toward the road with their weapons in hand. I always wondered what they would do if a pheasant or a deer came up between them and the road. Luckily, I never had to find out!

In the work I now do, the rhythm of the year changes in the fall as well. People in executive work hit the road hard in the fall. For instance, this week I will be in Louisville for two days at a meeting bringing together the members of the General Assembly Council, their staff, and the middle governing body staff (synods and presbytery executives.) This is seen as one of the ways that the church is attempting to address some of the problems of the past. Elected members of the GAC, the staff that serves them, and the mgb staffs have sometimes seen each other as adversaries, or at least as not understanding the pressures of the jobs to which we have each been called. One example of this might be when someone on the staff or an elected member of a committee makes a statement to the press that ruffles the feathers of Presbyterians in Illinois. It is not the person who made the statement who faces the questions and, in some cases, anger on a weekly basis. Instead it is you (if you are part of the identified leadership of the presbytery) and me who get to respond on behalf of people who made decisions or pronouncements in which we had no real part.

One of the ways that the current literature talks about this phenomenon is by talking about "silos." They are using those structures with which many of us are familiar as a metaphor for organizations that keep their various functions overly-segmented. A school district, for instance, might emphasize reading proficiency at all levels and expect all teachers to also teach reading. If they are in silos, then the administration would not let the reading specialists in the elementary school teach the high school teachers how to teach reading skills. They might say that these groups represent two different faculties and they do not have anything to teach each other. One purpose of the meeting in Louisville this week is to break down the silos that keep us from knowing each other very well or from being able to imagine what it is like to serve the church in our various calls.

Think about your congregation Are there groups that have been kept separate even though your church's organizations should all be moving in the same direction? Is no one allowed to use the kitchen without the permission of the PW group even though the youth group could really expand if they could make sloppy joes on Sunday nights? Is the order of worship decided by a small handful of people who have been doing it for many years even though there are people who have joined the church from other places who would like to introduce a few new elements? Do most people in your congregation expect that the leadership of Christian education classes and fellowship opportunities for young people should be done only by the parents of those students even though the parents are exhausted and there are people with time and skills on their hands--simply because that is the way it has always been done? What are the silos in your church that need to be broken down so that the mission of making disciples can be more fully addressed?

Have a good week.

Sue Krummel

Executive Presbyter – Presbytery of Great Rivers

Happenings

ACEs for November

STORIES OF HEALING

Sponsored by the Health and Healing Ministries Team

- November 5th Healing and Holocaust--Eva Muller,
Holocaust Survivor
- November 12th Healing and Christianity--LuAnn Atkins
- November 19th Healing and Curing--Panel of Hospice Workers
with Susan Enlow, moderator
- November 26th Healing and Creativity--Kevin Torgerson,
St. John's Hospital Chaplain

Yoga Classes Begin Again

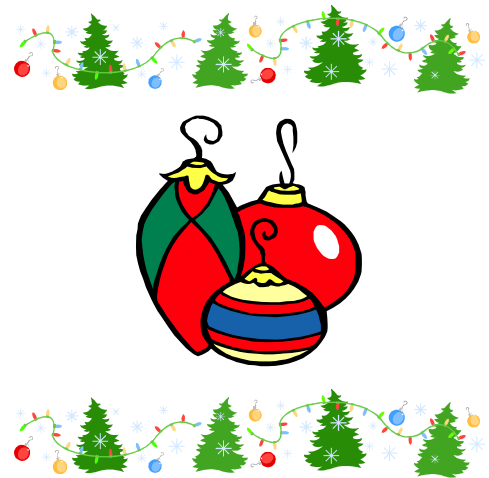
We will have a six week Yoga session in November and December. All the Thursdays in November and the first two in December will comprise our next session. The complete session (six classes) will cost \$50.00 and the normal \$10.00 per class rate will apply.

If there are any schedule conflicts, I will let you know. I hope to see all of you at some of the classes. I will always be there, so don't hesitate to show up, even if you think you are a little late. I hope everyone is enjoying the lovely fall weather and colors.
~ Jennie Claflin

Hanging of the Greens

The Worship and Music Committee will sponsor the annual Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 19, starting at 4:00 p.m. We will decorate the church for Advent, relish a potluck supper and thrill to a carol sing in our newly decorated sanctuary.

Last year we had 25 members and friends who enjoyed a warm fellowship of work and the joyful expression of their creative abilities. We encourage participation by children and adults. **Mark your calendars now for Sunday, November 19 for the Hanging of the Greens.** ~ Susan Harris



Winter Emergency Shelter Volunteers Are Ready to go for a Third Year:

SOS, Springfield's emergency winter shelter program, will open its doors (for its third season in the basement of Contact Ministries/Helping Hands) on November 1st, and there are plenty of openings available to serve on our church's team.

First Presbyterian has been active in this shelter since its beginning, with participation of over twenty church members, including our Youth Group which received special recognition at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. First Presbyterian was also recognized for creating a matching funds program to hire the first professional staff for the S.O.S.

If you have been looking for a way to help the homeless among us, as well as a way to help Springfield come up with new solutions to this vital issue, please think about serving in this program for at least one of the five winter months.

Our church volunteers on the fourth Thursday evening of each winter month and there are still plenty of open slots. Tasks include helping to cook and deliver a hot meal for about 30 homeless people, helping to serve the dinner, and assisting the staff for a couple of hours in various tasks from 5pm when the shelter opens through the end of the evening shift, about 11pm.

For more information, talk with Barb Olson (546-1252), other members of the Mission Committee or leave a message with the church office (528-4311).

This -N- That

Social Service Ministries:

Did you know that First Presbyterian has a new program in which trained volunteers help people who come to our church with needs of every sort? The service desk is in the main office and hours are the same as our **Deacon's Food Pantry**, that is Monday through Thursday from 9 until noon.

During the last three weeks of August, more than 50 people came to the Church office and were helped with needs ranging from emergency bus tickets, help obtaining trash stickers, budgeting, and counseling. In September, 63 people were given help, and only 7 had been seen the previous month.

Two areas of greatest importance, among the more than ten categories of assistance that your funds support, are gas vouchers and bus passes for working people.

More about funding – this new program isn't really new, but is a new format for our Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which the Church has supported for years. Session funds this ministry (\$300 a month, with \$100 earmarked for gas vouchers for working people), and has recently voted to increase the budgeted amount for the new year and move the ministry to the Mission Committee. To learn more contact Barb Olson at the church.

Reaching Out to Visitors

Of the many thousands of visitors to Springfield during 2006, many entered our sanctuary to hear of the Lincoln Family connection with First Presbyterian Church and to view pew #20 and the exquisite Tiffany windows. More than 5,000 visitors were recorded during the four summer months, June through September. This does not include an impressive number of out-of-town visitors who worship with us on Sunday, not only because of our historic designation but because of the Word of God proclaimed from the pulpit.

Twelve trained knowledgeable volunteers, scheduled on Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., provided this rather unique but fulfilling outreach program of this church. The 2006 docents were Tom DeLay, June Greer, Charles Hammond, Susan Harris, Kathy Hoffmann, Dorothy Lanham, Mary Jane MacDonald, Georgia Northrup, Robert Orndorff, Mary Patton, Jane Running and Pat Slater. We offer our gratitude to each.

Members of the **Health and Healing Team** are:
Barb Murphy, LuAnn Atkins, Barb Olson, Susan Enlow, Carol Harden, Riitta Anderson, Linda Wheal, Sharon Bilotti, Barb VonBehren.



November 2006 Birthdays

- 4 Suzan Mutman
- 5 Marge Sebring
George Ecklund
Corinne Stocker
- 6 Sondra Standridge
- 7 Samantha Nudo
- 9 Yvonne Hinesley, Linda Wheal
- 10 Erica Ecklund
- 12 Richard Kim
- 14 Sarah Enlow, Benjamin Slater
- 15 Jacob McNeal
- 17 Jon Fraser, Nick Fraser
- 19 David Akers, Jr., Roy Bland, Harold Bruninga
Norma Najim, James Patton III,
Elisabeth Watson
- 20 Estella Booth, Bill Enlow, Wilma Huebner
Pat Slater
- 21 Kayla Neal
- 22 Bob Orndorff
- 23 Nancy Long
- 24 Nadine Ferguson
- 25 Mya Henderson
- 28 Jim Cabell, Hella Holman
- 29 Wesley Eberle



LECTIONARY FOR NOVEMBER 2006

5th: Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34
12th: Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44
19th: 1 Samuel 1:4-20; *1 Samuel 2:1-10*; Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25
Mark 13:1-8
26th: 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12 (13-18); Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

All activities take place in the church unless otherwise noted

November 2006

1*WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service
6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering
- Christian Nurture Committee
6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group
- Film Club
7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- Friends of the Sangamon Valley

2*THURSDAY

12:00 p.m. - Personnel Committee
5:30 p.m. - Yoga Class
7:00 p.m. - Deacons
- Parents Without Partners
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

4*SATURDAY

8:00 p.m. - Classical Guitar Society

5*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

7*TUESDAY

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

8*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

9*THURSDAY

4:45 p.m. - Worship & Music Committee
5:30 p.m. - Yoga Class
6:30 p.m. - Parents Without Partners
7:00 p.m. - Mission Committee
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

11*SATURDAY

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

12*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. - Veterans Remembrance Worship Service
11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour

13*MONDAY

11:30 a.m. - Congregational Dev. Committee @ Cheddars Restaurant

14*TUESDAY

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

15*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

16*THURSDAY

5:30 p.m. - Yoga Class
7:00 p.m. - Session
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

17*FRIDAY

9:30 a.m. - Fairhills Circle @ Pres Home

18*SATURDAY

8:00 a.m. - Sister Cities Breakfast
6:00 p.m. - HMCC Thanksgiving Dinner

19*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. - Hanging of the Greens

20*MONDAY

6:00 p.m. - Community Thanksgiving Service
7:00 p.m. - Faith Circle

21*TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study Section II
12:00 p.m. - Building & Grounds Committee

23*THURSDAY

Church and Office closed for Thanksgiving Day

26*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

28*TUESDAY

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

29*WEDNESDAY

12:15 p.m. - Advent Brown Bag Recital
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

30*THURSDAY

5:30 p.m. - Yoga Class
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous