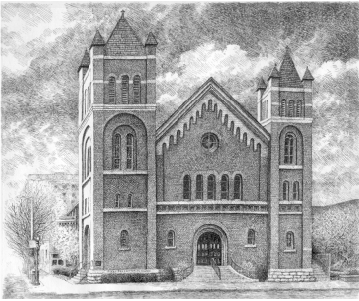


FIRST CHURCH
321 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS 62701

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October 16, 2006



FIRST CHURCH

UPDATE

The monthly newsletter of First Church

October 2006

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

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Shannon Yost and Selena Friar
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tom@first-pres-church.org
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cindy@first-pres-church.org
Pat Olson, Bookkeeper
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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 or Mike Orr at the **e-mail addresses listed above**.

Editorial Coordinator-Mike Orr
Production-Cindy Cass



The
2007

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

will be
"Kicking Off"
soon!

Please see page 3 for more info



11 November 2006 marks the 88th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I. The truce was signed in the Compiègne Forest in northern France. The peace terms only held for 21 years: In 1940 Hitler had the French surrender in exactly the same place. Many times since the “war to end all wars,” or as the French called it “the last of the last,” individuals have had to leave their lives and families in the United States for the spiritually bruising work of combat, military peacekeeping, as well as heart-wrenching relief work. Over the years, women and men in our Armed Forces have continued to muster courage and serve under extremely difficult conditions, including US disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.

To recognize the sacrifice of all veterans and their families, from the Revolutionary War through the present, First Presbyterian Church will celebrate a Veterans Day Sunday liturgy, November 12, 10:30 AM. With your help, church family veteran’s names will be included in a bulletin insert, which will list former and current Armed Forces members and their relatives.

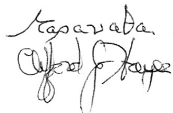
The liturgy on Veterans Day Sunday will, as it does every Sunday, seek comfort in the mystery of the living, dying, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We call on God, and God is always there to welcome us home. When we worship, we call on God and long for the response: God is present and moving about in our lives, always, everywhere. On Veterans Day Sunday, the hymns, special music, and our collective prayers will call a mindfulness of the presence of the Living Lord in our midst, and we will give thanks for those who have sacrificed so much.

Following the worship service we will gather in Fellowship Hall at which time each can express gratitude to those who have served.

To accomplish this, we are asking you to provide the complete name, rank, military unit, and period of service for all First Church family members, living or dead. (If the information is not available, just send what you have.) This includes your son, daughter, father, mother, brother, sister, husband or wife, grandparent, and of course yourself.

Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office to the attention of Cindy Cass or e-mail Cindy at cindy@first-pres-church.org.

Thank you so much for your assistance in this important recognition,



Name _____ Rank _____ Regiment/Unit _____

Division/Ship _____ Branch of Service _____

Years or War _____ Area _____

Living, Deceased, Killed in Action _____

P O W, Purple Heart, Bravery Medal _____

Relationship to member _____ Member’s Name _____

Example: W E (Gene) Dickerson, Staff Sgt, 1st Batt/14th Infantry, 71st Division, US Army, WW2 Europe, Member

STEWARDSHIP 2007

For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and over flowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give-large or small-will be used to measure what is given back to you. Luke 6:38

We would like to thank you for helping us reach our goal for the 2006 Stewardship Drive. Without your generous giving, we would not have succeeded.

As we come to this year's Stewardship Drive, we would like to thank Dan and June Greer for helping co-chair this year's campaign.

We have accomplished many things this year with the money you given. Hopefully you have seen some of these things, as you look around the church. We hope to accomplish more as we get into the 2007 Stewardship Drive.

For 2006 the session and membership set a goal to reduce the use of the trust funds for the day to day operations of the church. We have succeeded on the first step by having a budget of \$51,729 from trust funds as compared to an actual of \$129,000 in 2005. It appears we will succeed in not using more than \$51,729 in 2006.

The Finance Committee has approved a tentative budget for review by session late September. This budget is an increase of 2%. However, within the budget, utilities are going up 46.4%. While no other items have been cut, some enhancements in programs may be delayed.

You may ask why not increase the budget more than 2%? Income is the answer. Our pledge drive in 2006 had a goal of \$300,930 and should be exceeded by approximately \$10,000, if all pledges are received. However, due to deaths and transfers, the starting base for 2007 is \$298,699. Thus to balance this 2007 budget without taking more money out of the trust funds than we did in 2006, and also not increasing the St. Andrew's participation, we need a pledge drive of \$312,730 or 4.7% over the new base.

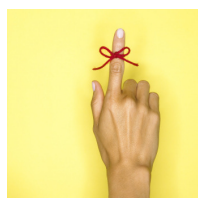
Due to higher utilities and a reduced base of givers, we will not be able to make the next step on reducing the use of trust funds. However we will not slip backwards by drawing out more than 2006. We could draw less by exceeding our pledge drive.

We hope the chart below helps reflect what our income has been and from where it is projected to come. Please prayerfully consider your gifts from God and your means of giving to First Church.

~ Clark and Kay McKee and Dan and June Greer Stewardship Chairs

	3 Year Comparison on Income			
	2004	2005	2006	2007
			Budget	Budget
Pledge Amount	\$279,098	\$280,803	\$300,930	\$312,730
Other	32,680	44,756	35,550	35,550
Income Trust	164,375	129,000	51,729	51,729
St. Andrews	76,104	97,736	104,000	104,000
Total	\$552,257	\$552,295	\$429,299	\$504,009

Children and Youth



SAVE THE DATE!!

December 2, 2006

12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Parent's Christmas Shopping Opportunity

Youth activities at church!

Calling all Christian Mothers and Grandmothers!

If you haven't already experienced "Hearts At Home", check out the following website: <http://www.hearts-at-home.org>. This is a ministry originally started for the benefit of stay-at-home mothers to offer support and opportunities for networking. They have many Christian resources available to women including conferences, monthly e-newsletters, books, recipes, etc. I encourage you to explore this website and sign-up for their newsletter.

In Christ,
Shannon Yost

Parenting is Heart Work

Saturday, October 21, 2006,

9:00 am to 2:30 pm

Rochester United Methodist Church

555 South Walnut St

Rochester, IL 62563

A Children's Program is provided.

Please call to register: 217-498-7179

ext 24. The cost is \$20 per person,

includes snack, meal and childcare

~ Shannon Yost



What can I do?

The Reverend Sue Krummel is executive presbyter of the Presbytery of Great Rivers.

Friends,

As I type that date into the subject line, I am reminded of where I was five years ago. I am sure you have your memories of that day, too. In Burlington, Iowa, the downtown churches gathered for a worship service that evening in the Episcopal Church. I imagine you were in worship at sometime in the course of that day as well.

Over the weekend, I attended two celebrations in our presbytery. One was at the Lewistown Church, where they were celebrating their 170th anniversary. The other was at the Ellington Memorial Church, just north of Quincy, where they were dedicating a new elevator. Kind of an interesting juxtaposition, since the Lewistown Church could really use an elevator to reach the sanctuary which is up a pretty steep set of steps! The Ellington people were telling me that they had tried four times before to install an elevator and it never was approved by the congregation. This time, the retired Methodist pastor who serves as their pastor told me that he got the people laughing and immediately moved to the vote and it passed. It is a beautiful elevator and very quiet. I was standing right next to it while it was running and I could not even hear it.

The chair of the elevator committee was telling me about how things have changed in that neighborhood in the last fifty years. One of his Catholic friends had been lamenting to him about the fact that the Catholic churches in that very Catholic area of our state have had to combine and many of the churches have closed. So, the Presbyterian made sure that his Catholic neighbor—with whom he was talking in the wheat field—knew that he was always welcome in the Presbyterian Church. He said that got a good laugh.

How old is the congregation in which you worship? What one change could your congregation make that would make it more welcoming—whether that is a physical change to the building or some other change in terms of worship time or style or, perhaps, adding an outreach program to your community? When was the last time you, personally, invited someone to worship with you and what was their response? Just a few questions for a rainy Monday morning!

Sue

The Sudan Today - **Pastor Heidi McGinness**

On October 1st (World Communion Sunday), at 9:00 a.m., the Reverend Heidi McGinness, US representative for Christian Solidarity International, a World Human Rights Organization will speak at First Presbyterian Church on the conditions in Sudan today. She recently returned from the Sudan. She will also preach in the 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. services.

As an ordained Presbyterian Minister, Pastor Heidi McGinness has served the Lord in the rural, suburban and inner-city parish. Always the prophetic preacher, Pastor Heidi has long worked toward ending the persecution of the Lord's children and their Church. A naturalized citizen, Pastor Heidi, left her native Germany as a young girl, where she had the misfortune of witnessing the results of hate and the horrors of war. Trips to war-torn Sudan, Africa with the human rights organization, Christian Solidarity International (CSI) in 2004 and 2005, provided the recently retired pastor a new outlet for her life's mission.

Christian Solidarity International exposes religious persecution, demands respect for the God given right of every human being to choose and practice their faith, and provides spiritual and material support for victims of religious repression, victimized children and victims of disaster. CSI is a worldwide Christian human rights organization that has been working for over 10 years aiding the persecuted in Sudan. Christians and Black Muslims have been the targets of genocide and enslavement by the Islamic government of that country. In Sudan, as in other parts of the world, CSI frees slaves, feeds the hungry, clothes the poor and provides medical support to the sick.

In 2004, 2005 and 2006, Pastor Heidi worked on CSI teams in Sudan, liberating over 400 women and children from slavery, delivering thousands of tons of grain and basic supplies for living, hundreds of pounds of medicine, spiritual support and hope.

Pastor Heidi, as Outreach Director for CSI-USA, has been traveling the United States speaking to ecclesiastical and civic groups retelling her gripping eyewitness account of the sufferings of the faithful in Sudan and beyond. She has preached to the congregations of remote rural parishes and suburban mega-churches providing them with her unique perspective on the continued suffering of black Christians in South Sudan and Darfur. Through her preaching and speaking engagements she raises much needed funds to aid CSI carry out their mission.

As Outreach Director for CSI-USA, Pastor Heidi has appeared on Breakthrough with Pastor Rod Parsley on Trinity Broadcasting Network and has been profiled in radio, print and news media. Invited by the White House, she attended a briefing on Darfur in March, 2006 in Washington D.C. with officials representing the Department of State and the White House.

As a 501 (c)(3), all donations made to CSI are tax-deductible for income tax purposes.

Contact Information:

2811 Federal Blvd.

Denver, CO 80211

303-477-1577 Office

720-984-4488 Cell

heidi.mcginness@csi-usa.org

www.csi-int.org

Reverend Shirley Rakacs Funk

Roy Wehrle reports that a nice thank you card was received from Shirley's members expressing appreciation for our church's warm welcome and chance for Shirley to preach at her former church. Comments included: "Thank you for organizing the Habitat service project for all of us"; "Thank you for your kind hospitality"; "Thank you for a wonderful lunch"; "We loved visiting your church, and thank you so much for the fellowship time and lunch"; "You made us all feel welcome and experienced God's grace through everyone we met"; "On behalf of us all -- our heartfelt thanks! We grew to appreciate Pastor Shirley even more, since she connected us with you."

A personal note from Reverend Rakacs to Reverend Hayes is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Happenings

ACEs Program for October -- Come One and All

October 1st: World Communion Sunday -- The Sudan Today with Reverend Heidi McGuiness, recently returned from The Sudan, discussing the Darfur and Sudanese situation.

October 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th: Mary Kay McCabe on **Enneagrams**
Come find out who you are. Isn't it time? The Enneagram, which probably derives from the Eastern tradition of Sufi wisdom, is an excellent tool for self-knowledge and intellectual and spiritual growth. It reduces human behavior to nine character types: The Need to be Perfect, The Need to be Needed, The Need to Succeed, etc. No one type is better or worse than the other, of course, but it should be an interesting challenge, and possibly an eye-opener, for each of us to try to spot ourselves as one of the personality types being described and discussed in this informative series based on Richard Rohr's book "Enneagrams."

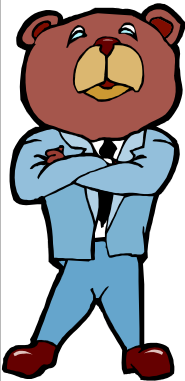
Come join us

Sunday Mornings in the Library --- Nine AM

~ Roy Wehrle

FPC Food Pantry

In September and October the Deacons are sponsoring a "**protein challenge**" – a contest between Cubs fans and Cards fans to see which are the most generous. There are two large, decorated collection barrels in Fellowship Hall – one for each team. The barrels will remain available for donations through the end of October. The "**Designated Barrel Rule**" says that whichever team's barrel contains the greatest number of protein donations for the food pantry at the end of the season will be named **MVP – Major Vittles Philanthropists**. Protein items include all types of canned meat or chicken, beef stew, chili, pasta sauces with meat, beans, etc. At present the food pantry roster does include plenty of tuna. Please remember to vote for your favorite teams by bringing protein items for the barrels. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and donations help keep expenditures for the food pantry at a manageable level.



Caution: Players caught moving protein from one barrel to another are subject to a 3 sermon suspension.
~ Board of Deacons

Poetry Lovers' Group

The Poetry Lovers' Group will meet on Tuesday, October 10th at the Kelson home in Chatham at 7:00 p.m. All who like to hear poetry and drama spoken are warmly welcome. In October we are doing the Greek play Agamemnon by Aeschylus. Come join us and read a part with us. Plays are very accessible and even modern. We have extra copies of the drama. Call Roy Wehrle at 546-0799 for directions or a ride to the Kelson's.

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

Don't forget to
FALL BACK
Saturday, October 28,
before you go to bed.



This -N- That

Blessed are the PIECEmakers!

It's never too late to learn a new skill; especially one that provides as much gratification, fellowship and mission support as "quilting." The new "state of the art" quilt frame, purchased with memorial funds given in memory of the late Joanna Orr, is assembled, loaded and in use by that loyal band of "piece makers." If you're interested in giving it a try, call JoAnn Wehrle at 546-0799.



Food Pantry News

The proceeds of the annual 4-H Clubs of Illinois Food Drive at the 2006 State Fair, were donated to the Central Illinois Food Bank. The Food Bank passed on to our pantry 783 pounds for an administrative cost of \$.18 per pound for a total of \$140.94.

To illustrate the value of this \$140.94 expenditure, a one pound can of Food Bank ravioli, regardless of brand, costs \$.18. At the super market it would cost any where from \$.79 to over \$1.00 per can, depending on brand. We would like to thank the members for their continuing generous support both in funds and the monthly food donations.

May the peace of Christ be yours.
Board of Deacons and John Murphy



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.



October 2006 Birthdays

- 1 Matt Fraser, Nancy Herndon
- 2 Carrie Pennell
Kelsey Surbeck
- 4 Lois Brotherson, Esto Bunn
Nancy Roberts
- 5 Drew Stone
- 6 Carol Hey
- 7 Julie Pitchford, Sula Mae Roberts
- 10 Adam Stefanos, John Watson
- 13 Jay Hart
- 14 Bill Hey, Mark Roberts Jr.
- 15 Randy Raynolds
- 16 Fred Koschmann
- 17 Zachary Claflin, April Douglas, Jason Stuebs
- 18 Marcia Schmelzle
- 19 Jayden Beverly
- 20 John Wargo
- 21 Mackinze Hughes, Glenna Kniss
- 23 Catherine Hart, Olivia Pennell
- 25 Tom Beverly, Jo Bunn
- 27 Mary Lee Herndon
- 28 Lela Noble, William Patton, Tad Wilson
- 30 Donna Bankard, Ed Cunningham
Kathryn Mutman



LECTIONARY FOR OCTOBER 2006

- 1st: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20;
Mark 9:38-50
- 8th: Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16
- 15th: Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31
- 22nd: Job 38:1-7 (34-41); Psalm 104:1-9, 24-35c; Hebrews 5:1-10;
Mark 10:35-45
- 29th: Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22); Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

All activities take place in the church unless otherwise noted

October 2006

1*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

3*TUESDAY

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

4*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
 - Liturgical Dance Class
7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 - Friends of the Sangamon Valley

5*THURSDAY

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

8*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

10*TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study Section II
10:00 a.m. - Clippers meeting
7:00 p.m. - Poetry Group @ Kelson Home

11*WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service
6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering
6:30 p.m - First Pres Knitting Group
 - Film Club
 - Liturgical Dance Class
7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

12*THURSDAY

4:45 p.m. - Worship & Music Committee
6:30 p.m. - Parents Without Partners
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

13*FRIDAY

7:00 p.m. - Eggleston/McCann wedding rehearsal

14*SATURDAY

5:00 p.m. - Eggleston/McCann wedding
6:00 p.m. - Second Saturday Supper Club

15*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

16*MONDAY

7:00 p.m. - Faith Circle

17*TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study Section II
10:00 a.m. - Elder Hostel

18*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

19*THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. - Session
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

20*FRIDAY

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

22*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

24*TUESDAY

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

25*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

26*THURSDAY

7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

27*FRIDAY

Francesco Sera organ recital

29*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

31*TUESDAY

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