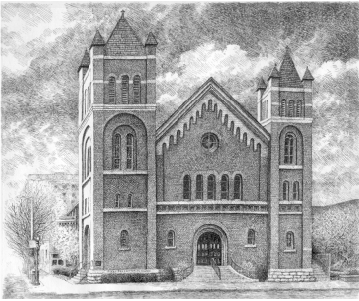


**FIRST CHURCH**  
321 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET  
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS 62701

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**DEADLINE for October issue:**  
**September 14, 2006**



# FIRST CHURCH UPDATE

*The monthly newsletter of First Church*

*September 2006*

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

#### STAFF

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**Co-Directors of Children, Youth and Family Services**  
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**Mike Self**, Security  
SPARC, Janitorial

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

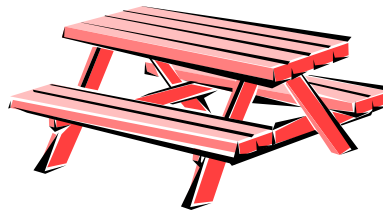
**WORSHIP/CLASSES**  
**Sundays:**  
9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School  
9:00 a.m. Adult Education Programs  
8:15 a.m. Worship Service/Chapel  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sanctuary  
**Wednesdays:**  
5:30 p.m. Vespers

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

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**“Fall Festival & Church Picnic”**  
**Sunday, September 10, 2006**  
☉ 11:30 a.m.

† Sponsor ♡  
Congregational Development Committee



## Families - Food – Friends - Fellowship

**Potluck meal: Bring a dish to feed 6-8 and your lawn chairs. The main dish, drinks, cups, plates, dinnerware and napkins will be provided by the CD Committee.**

**Since much of the parking lot will be taken up with picnic space, members should park in the parking deck on Sixth and Capitol.**

**Tour the “midway” in Fellowship Hall, to learn about the exciting new programs at First Church for 2006-2007.**



## Pastor's Column

### Relationships are Hard

When Pam and I were first married, Pam's grandfather told me, "Cliff, marriage is a series of love affairs with the same woman." I translate that as meaning, at least in part, that marriage, like all relationships, requires sustained effort and commitment. In all relationships there is distance and closeness. The dance between distance and closeness is the journey of life.

That dance is also the journey of faith, describing your relationship with God. Was there a day when you were closer to God than you are today? . . . If so, someone moved, and it is time for you to move closer to God.

Perhaps it is time to consider or reconsider how intimate you are in your relationship with God. When was the last time you were angry with God and had a real "Heart-to-Heart"? When was the last time you struggled with a biblical text, not just to understand it more fully, but struggled with it as a means of drawing closer to God? When was the last time you thought deeply about what you believe . . . "human nature, sin, and grace," about the activity of God's Spirit in your life . . . about the meaning of "salvation in Christ"?

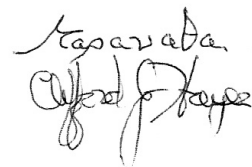
I invite you to enroll in the fall Theology Class. Join other seekers who long to grow into a more intimate relationship with God in Jesus Christ. The class will be demanding, and rewarding. Please join us beginning Wednesday, September 13 in Cook Lounge as we continue our journey.

\*Please call our church office for the book – cost \$35.

*Christian Theology: An Introduction*, Third Edition, by Alister E. McGrath

### **Theology Class Semester II Fall 2006 Class Schedule Wednesday Evenings 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Cook Lounge**

September 13.....The Doctrine of the Trinity, 24 pages  
September 20.....The Doctrine of the Person of Christ, 32 pages  
September 27....Faith and History: A New Christological Agenda, 24 pages  
October 4.....The Doctrine of Salvation in Christ, 32 pages  
October 11.....The Doctrines of Human Nature, Sin, and Grace, 34 pages  
October 18.....The Doctrine of the Church, 29 pages  
October 25.....The Doctrine of the Sacraments, 23 pages  
November 1.....Christianity and the World Religions, 17 pages  
November 8.....Last Things: The Christian Hope, 22 pages



## ACEs FALL PROGRAM

ACEs is pleased to announce its Fall Program Schedule which has varied segments that should be of interest to all members. If you liked Tasha Blackburn's program on sermons during the summer, we hope you will equally enjoy the stimulating ACE programs designed for this fall. The group meets Sunday mornings at nine in the Library --- All Are Welcome

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Video with Amy-Jill Levine on **Doubting Thomas**

**September 10<sup>th</sup>:** **GLOBAL WARMING - What's Coming?** Reverend David MacDonna and Roy Wehrle assisted by Tom Brokaw (on video) explore Christian views toward a coming Warming!

**September 17<sup>th</sup>:** **Cuba, the Caribbean** and the United States with Reverend Trish Lloyd-Sidle, Presbyterian Church Office of the Caribbean Ministries. Come catch up on Cuba and more. Note: Reverend Lloyd-Sidle will preach this Sunday.

**September 24<sup>th</sup>:** Pastor Clifford Hayes on **THE TRINITY & FEMINISM**. At the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly there was renewed discussion about how we understand God through the concept of the Trinity. But what was all the talk about the Womb of God?

**October 1<sup>st</sup>** (Communion Sunday): **The Sudan Today** with Reverend Heidi McGuiness, US representative for Christian Solidarity International, a World Human Rights Organization. She recently returned from the Sudan and will talk on the situation there.

Coming in October: *Enneagrams* with Mary Kay McCabe

### Choir Kick-Off Party

**Where:** the Davidson's home (2506 Lindsay)

**When:** Wednesday, September 13, 2006 at 7:00pm

Bring a side dish or dessert and a voice to share

~ we will share great food, great fellowship and great fun in singing ~

Choir Alumni, Spouses and Prospective members are also welcome

RSVP to Nichol DelGiorno at 528-4311 or [nichol@first-pres-church.org](mailto:nichol@first-pres-church.org)

#### **Illinois Presbyterian Home - Donations needed for Fall Bazaar/Garage Sale**

The Fair Hills Volunteers are beginning to price items for the sale which will be held on the first Saturday of October. Donations (other than clothing) for this sale would be welcome at this time. Please drop off your donations at the Residence on the corner of Chatham Road and Lawrence Avenue between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. any day of the week. For very large or valuable donations, a tax receipt can be provided. All income from this sale will be used to enhance the lives of the residents through the Volunteer programs. Call 787-2095 or 546-5622 for more information.

#### **Fall Yoga Class Starts September 6th**

A new eight-week session of YogaFit will start on Thursday, September 6th and run through the last Thursday in October. Classes run from 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. and are held in the Music/Theatre Room #211 in the church edu-

cation building. Cost for the entire session is \$70 or there is a drop in rate of \$10 per class. YogaFit is excellent for keeping joints flexible, stretching and conditioning muscles and relaxation training. Come try it and see. If you have questions, call or email the instructor, Cris Martin, at 793-1933 or [fitprescription@hotmail.com](mailto:fitprescription@hotmail.com).

#### **Surprise announcement electrifies Assembly**

BIRMINGHAM, June 15 — A Colorado businessman and elder has contributed a historic \$150 million gift to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) aimed at helping presbyteries start new churches, transform struggling congregations and develop new racial-ethnic congregations.

The money from Stanley W. Anderson of Denver, CO. for the new Loaves and Fishes Church Growth Fund will be distributed to presbyteries through grants ranging from \$250,000 to \$1 million each.

Presbyteries will be required to apply for the grants and will have to match a portion of it.

# Children and Youth

## Vacation Bible School A Success

Our church was excited to host this year's VBS during the week of August 7-11. You will remember that we are celebrating our second year of partnership with Hope Presbyterian Church. Together we were able to provide an interactive and faithful experience to 28 different children. Children came to the VBS from both Hope and First as well as from Contact Ministries. This year's theme was Holy Week and we were blessed to celebrate Palm Sunday on Monday evening with Jesus' arrival on a real donkey! Pillow, the donkey, came to us from Touch and Feel Petting Zoo and she brought the scriptures alive for our children as they saw Jesus riding her down the alley between our church and the St. Andrew's building. As the week continued they learned about the Last Supper, about Peter's denial and Jesus' death. Finally, on Friday night, all were thrilled to meet Jesus again, risen from the dead and offering a blessing. The children also raised enough money for 400 cans of food which have been donated to Kumler Food Pantry.

I hope you were able to see the Marketplace when it was set up in our Fellowship Hall. If not, or if you would like to hear more about this wonderful week, please ask any of the myriad of adults who helped to make the experience so memorable. Over 30 volunteers were involved between our two congregations. Many thanks go out to those who gave up their evenings and donned wacky costumes, all so that our children's faith might grow. If you would like to support VBS you may give a \$25 donation to the "donkey fund" and in return you will receive a limited edition "Faces of the Marketplace" full color poster. This work was designed by our own Chris Young and highlights just a few of the many wonderful people involved. You can order a poster by calling the church office.



*Jesus, played by Hope Church's Alex Hammack, comes into town for Monday evening's VBS riding on a donkey named Pillow. Pillow, from Touch and Feel Petting Zoo, brought Palm Sunday alive for the children gathered.*



## Sunday School Begins Soon

Children and Youth Sunday School begins Sunday, September 10 at 9a.m. All children and youth, ages Kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, are invited. We continue our rotation-style learning under the theme of "Promises Kept." This will be our theme for the entire school year and, within that theme, this fall we will be learning about Abraham and the covenant (September), Jacob (October), David as a boy (November), and Isaiah's prophecies (December). Your child or youth will have the opportunity to learn these important scriptures through art, drama, games, cooking, mission and, new this year, a computer lab! Sunday School begins with music, taught by Nichol DelGiorno, at 9a.m. and then rotations that last until 10:15. It all happens in the Children's Hallway on the second floor. If you have any questions please contact the church office. Please join us!

## Liturgical Dance Class Offered

First Presbyterian Church will sponsor a 6-week series of liturgical dance classes for children ages 5-12. The classes will meet on Wednesday nights from 7-8:15p.m. beginning on September 6 and ending on October 11. Class participants will share learned dances during worship on Sunday, October 15. The class will be taught by Selvarine Jones, who also teaches dance at the Community Arts Center. The class is free of charge, however advance registration is necessary. Please contact Nichol DelGiorno to register.

## HOPE-IN-A-BOX FOR CHILDREN

The contents of these boxes have been selected by therapists who help children who have experienced trauma. Filled boxes will be collected at our church until Oct. 22 and delivered to the Presbytery on Oct. 27, the opening day of a presbytery-wide conference held in Springfield. Individuals, families and church groups are urged to work on this project and to pray over items as they are packed into boxes. The mission committee of Great Rivers Presbytery will ship the assembled boxes to the national Disaster Relief office of our denomination. What a rich opportunity to share a little something of ourselves!

### Hope-in-a-Box contents:

1 Rubbermaid clear impression shoebox with lid, 6.5 qt.(or other flexible clear plastic 6.5 qt. box with lid)  
1 small stuffed bear; 1 small soft ball; 1 harmonica or other small musical instrument; 1 6"x 9" non-spiral bound pad of regular or construction paper (60-100 sheets); 1 slinky (metal or plastic); 1 yo-yo; 1 7-foot child's jump rope; 1 comb  
1 toothbrush; 1 tube of toothpaste (4-7 ounces); 1 box of 24 crayons; 1 large eraser; 6 new pencils with erasers  
1 pencil sharpener; 1 30-centimeter ruler (12 inches); 1 pair blunt child's scissors; Ribbon to tie the box

BRING THE BOXES TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR TO THE OLD CHURCH OFFICE NEXT TO FELLOWSHIP HALL. The Mission Committee will deliver them to Presbytery on Oct. 27.

### Visitors Welcome!

On Sunday, July 23, we welcomed visitors with family ties to First Church which go back many years. Mary Coe Foran from Nashua, New Hampshire called one day and asked Marge Sebring if it would be a problem if she and 40 or so of her family came to today's 10:30 service. We told her that we were sure we could squeeze them in somewhere in the sanctuary.

Let me share Ms. May Coe Foran's comments from subsequent emails: Colonel and Mrs. John Williams were members of the First Church back in the mid to late 1800's which is what has prompted our choosing to attend the 10:30 a.m. service on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. John Williams was a close friend of Lincoln's and is my great, great, great grandfather. Last year when I was visiting Springfield I attended one of your services and felt instantly connected to the people and place. Honestly, everyone in the congregation was so welcoming!

I have tried to write a simple description of our ties to Springfield, but find I just end up writing a genealogy and am quite sure that no one wants to hear that much detail. Suffice it to say that the primary ties are to the Williams family, the Orndorff family, the MacPhersons, the Plaisteds and the Coes. Notably, our dear Aunt Alice Plaisted, who is 99 and who grew up in Springfield and remembers it well, will be flying into Springfield from Washington DC. Also of note, is that we are the Coe's of Coe Brothers Bookstore that was located in downtown for many, many years. I could go on and on, but will save any questions for the coffee hour.

Subsequent to the Williams' family's visit, I received this note via email.

Yesterday was terrific. Thank you so much for introducing the family. I apologize that I had to interrupt our conversation at coffee hour...one of my cousins was leaving and had to catch a flight...sorry about that. I lost track of you after that, but hope that you know that you brightened our day. Thanks again, Mary

**THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO WERE SO WARM AND WELCOMING.**

~ Mike Orr

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.



## LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2006

6th: Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-27  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

13th: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10(11-13) 14-17  
Mark 7:24-37

20th: Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

27th: Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

# Happenings

## Book Club News

After some machinations, we have produced a full schedule of reading for the 2006-2007 season. Below is the listing of dates, books, reviewers and hosts. Please review it and make plans to attend as many meetings as you can. We welcome all comers and look forward to a stimulating reading program this year; we expect some rousing discussions.

Date	Title	Author	Reviewer	Host
Sep 28 <sup>th</sup>	Cry the Beloved Country / Alan Paton		Joan Rothfuss	Kathy Hoffmann
Oct 26 <sup>th</sup>	The Mermaid Chair / Sue Monk Kidd		Barb VonBehren	Ruth Smith
Nov 30 <sup>th</sup>	Don't Lets Go to the Dogs Tonight / Alexandra Fuller		Kathy Hoffmann	Claire Eberle
Jan 25 <sup>th</sup>	Desert Queen: The Extraordinary Life of Gertrude Bell / Janet Wallach		Jennie Claflin	Barb VonBehren
Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ladies Detective Agency Books / Alexander McCall Smith		Carol Harden	Blanca Bernasek
Mar 29 <sup>th</sup>	Nickel and Dimed / Barbara Ehrenreich		Claire Eberle	Jennie Claflin
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	The End of Oil: On the Edge of a Perilous New World / Paul Roberts		Blanca Bernasek	Ruth Smith
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Organizational Meeting	Joan Rothfuss		

If you'd like to know more about the Book Club, the meeting schedule or the selection process, please call Jennie Claflin at 789-7424. We meet in members' homes or at the church and our meeting time is the last Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. At this time we have selected books for September through April (except December when we do not meet) and have left May for organizing for the next year. We can always add a book for May if there is interest, otherwise we'll just use that month for planning. All selections and hosting arrangements are flexible, so we can always modify dates, book suggestions or offers to host meetings if needed. Plus, we are happy to help with transportation. Contact Jennie or any member to discuss and watch for our brochure which should be available next month.

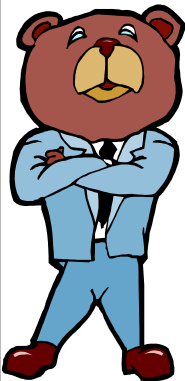
### FPC Food Pantry

In September the Deacons are sponsoring a "protein challenge" – a contest between Cubs fans and Cards fans to see which are the most generous. During Fall Festival there will be two large, decorated collection barrels in Fellowship Hall – one for each team. The barrels will remain available for donations through the end of September. 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.



### "March for Meals"

The Illinois Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross is having a Walk-A-Thon on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 12 to 3 at the Illinois Department of Transportation building on Dirksen Parkway along the Lost Bridge Walking Trail. The money raised during this event will be used to purchase meals for those unable to otherwise afford the cost of \$5.55 per meal. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO WALK AND RAISE THE MONEY.** Each walker is asked to try and raise \$100 in pledges. The reason for the change in time and place of this event since the last newsletter is that it is being coordinated with National Fire Safety Week. All recipients of the Meals on Wheels program will be given free fire alarms that week. Please contact Mary Patton at 546-4645 to say you will be a walker or to sponsor a walker. If you like, you can also just give Mary your check made out to the "Illinois Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross." Thank you for all your support of this vital and fun event!



# This -N- That

## Church Office Volunteer Positions Now Available!

In spite of the budget constraints, two part time slots for office volunteers have opened up. These opportunities don't come along just every day, so act promptly! Job duties include no heavy lifting (except the phone receiver). Salary is zero (\$0). No personal insurance of any kind is provided. **Hours are Tuesday afternoon (12-3) and Thursday morning (9-12).** To get details on responsibilities and the benefits and personal satisfaction associated with helping people in this manner, call Marge Sebring or Cindy Cass at 528-4311. **Note:** We really need help!

## Meals on Wheels

A big **Thank You** to the following people who delivered Meals On Wheels the week of August 7<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>: Lou and Barb VonBehren, Latham and Ann Hall, John and Barb Murphy, Roy and JoAnn Wehrle, Bud and Jane Luers, Tom Delay, Duane and Pat Slater, Ron Willey, Dan and Judy Dees, Joe Hills, Kay Stocker, Jane Running, Mary Jane MacDonald, Bob and Nancy Ashbaugh, and Hiram and Gaile Phillips. As any of these people can tell you, those receiving the meals are most grateful since because of this service they are able to remain in their homes.



## What do downtown churches do? CIOP organizes for justice

The Central Illinois Organizing Project (CIOP) is an ecumenical faith-base community organization encompassing 12 counties in Central Illinois. Its mission is to empower low-moderate income and families of color and their congregations and organizations to work collectively to become full partners in the decision-making process on issues of justice in their communities and region. CIOP has addressed predatory lending practices, increased homeownership opportunities, and secured additional public funding to address a number of community-wide issues. The Presbytery of Great Rivers and several Presbyterian congregations support CIOP.

Recently, members of CIOP in Bloomington, Illinois stood with Spanish-speaking new immigrants, demanding they be paid for work they completed at a local hotel. The total amount owed by the hotel is in the thousands of dollars, and when they ask for their money they were threatened with Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). After further negotiation, the hotel manager agreed to all CIOP demands. He agreed to ensure that the workers received back wages and to recommend to the owners that they no longer hire the cleaning firm in question. CIOP maintains an office here at First Presbyterian Church.

## Liturgist

The practice of having church members read the liturgy for Sunday morning services started when the Rev. Howard Milkman was pastor. Since he was the only pastor on staff, he asked session members to volunteer to read the liturgy for services. Then session members volunteered.

Later The Rev. Gordon McLean said that any church member in good standing could perform this service. There are about 40 members who have volunteered to do this.

Ruth Smith has called these people and provided the office with the list for the past several years. Now starting in September, Susan Harris will be the caller for liturgists.

Anyone interested in being a liturgist can call Susan and give her their name. She can help you with reading, listen to you practice and will schedule you for upcoming dates.

## September 2006 Birthdays

- 1 Annabelle Patton
- 2 Fred Hoffmann
- 3 Elizabeth Myers
- 4 Cori Stuart
- 5 Susanne Day
- 6 Nathaniel Koschmann
- 7 Shane Padget, Randy Schick
- 8 Karl Menninger, Andi Purnell, Chris Slater
- 11 Jeff Anderson
- 13 Tom DeLay, Geoff Turner, JoAnn Wehrle
- 14 Jeanette Anderson
- 15 Stuart Cappellin, Carolee Drennan
- 17 Michael Bernasek, Charles Hammond
- 18 Susan Harris
- 19 Jennifer Miller, Linda Rakers, Lillian Stevens
- 23 Pam Hayes
- 24 Avery Kerns, Kelly Ruff
- 25 Bernadine Sorensen, Suanne Tuttle, Abigail Leigh Wilson
- 26 Jacqueline Russell
- 27 Clark Cunningham, Claire Marie Larkin, Kimberly Tucker, Chuck Watson
- 28 David Grimm
- 29 Kay McKee
- 30 Michael Atkins, James Fenimore, Jeanette Huston



# Presbyterian Women News

## Presbyterian Women collect thousands of shoes, socks

When Louisville officials calculate the economic impact of more than 3,000 Presbyterian women descending on the city recently, it wouldn't be surprising if a truckload of shoes and socks gets left out of the equation.

Especially since the cargo, over 7,522 pairs of shoes and an estimated 40,000 pairs of socks, was a gift intended to be measured not in dollars and cents but rather by the number of lives it touches.

At least that's what planners of the recently concluded 2006 Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women had in mind when they asked participants to collect footwear to donate to needy children in Louisville, which has hosted the triennial event since 1997.

"The Louisville Convention Bureau doesn't know how to record this unique economic impact, but Presbyterian Women left their gifts so that the children will know they were there," said Carol Winkler, hospitality chair of the Gathering Committee.

The five-day event, which ended July 11, brought together some 3,100 Presbyterian women from around the United States and more than 80 global partners, who came to share stories of the faith and work of women from their countries.

This year's theme was Creation! Celebration! God's Word, Light for the Journey.

Many brought bags, boxes, and suitcases filled with shoes and socks that were donated by the attendees, churches and presbyteries.

Later, even as post-conference cleanup neared completion, a box of shoes and socks arrived at the Kentucky International Convention Center, the meeting venue. Department store gift cards were also received along with contributions totaling \$536, Winkler said.

"To say that Presbyterian Women are generous is an understatement," she said. "Given the opportunity, they can move mountains and make a difference in a way that can only be measured by love."

Shoes and socks were collected for the first time during the Gathering as a gesture of appreciation to the community of Louisville for continuing to host the every-three-years event, and in celebration of the Decade of the Child.

The Salvation Army plans to distribute most of the items as part of its "Back to School" project and its "Christmas Angel" program, according to Winkler.

Some Brazilian guests took home 25-30 pairs of shoes to give to less fortunate children when they return to South America. Portland Presbyterian Church in Louisville took 450 pairs of shoes and about 1,200 pairs of socks to distribute in the local community.

For more information about the 2006 Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women log on to

<http://www.pcusa.org/pwgathering.htm>

## Cuba Update

### Visitor from the National Office

We are especially pleased to announce that the Reverend Trisha Lloyd-Sidle, PC(USA) mission co-worker for Cuba, will be coming to Springfield from Louisville, Kentucky on September 15. She is the individual at the PC(USA) responsible for coordinating church relations with Cuba. Although the plans are tentative, we hope to have a potluck dinner on September 16<sup>th</sup> and a discussion on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Reverend Lloyd-Sidle will be preaching here at First Church on the 17<sup>th</sup>. She has vast experience in this area and has been to Cuba many, many times. What could be timelier?

The Rev. Tricia Lloyd-Sidle serves the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in the United States and Cuba, as a mission co-worker. She is the Regional Liaison for the Caribbean, with special attention to Cuba and the Caribbean-North American Council for Mission (CANACOM). While Latin America has been the focus of much of Tricia's life, she has for many years understood her call to be bringing the "mission message" back to the United States, encouraging us to see ourselves in the context of the world.

From 1993 to 2001, Tricia was the coordinator of the Global Awareness and Involvement unit of the Worldwide Ministries Division. Among her many contributions to the church's mission education, she was the principal organizer of the series of global mission conferences held in 1997, 1999, and 2001.

Tricia holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee, and a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York, New York.

## Books, not Bombs

***"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21\****

The images are horrifying – children by the hundreds killed by U.S. made bombs lobbed into Lebanon. Thousands of homes, hospitals, schools, and houses of worship leveled. Hundreds of thousands of frightened families displaced. In Israel Hezbollah's random rockets terrorize communities and kill innocent civilians. On both sides of this out-of-control war, it is the children who are the victims.

At the very hour Lebanese officials were pleading with the U.S. to negotiate a cease-fire, the U.S. government was instead delivering fresh shipments of bombs to Israel to rain down even more terror on the innocent people of Lebanon. We believe America can do better. Our faith teaches that love is more powerful than hate. That is why FaithfulAmerica is launching a response to help deliver shipments of love, not hate, and we're calling it: **Books, not Bombs.**

I spoke this morning with Aline Papazian, a Lebanese relief worker in Beirut with the Middle East Council of Churches. She told us that last night the city was shaken by Israeli bombs exploding all around them, though thankfully they remained safe through the night. Aline told me that the greatest need at the moment is for children, who were about to begin their school year, to experience some semblance of a normal life. The volunteers serving in shelters, refugee centers, hospitals, and makeshift schools need, among other things, educational supplies as they try to minimize the trauma of this war.

You can help right now by buying "[back to school kits](#)" for children provided through our partner organization, [Church World Service](#). While it is doubtful that "school" as they know it will begin anytime soon, volunteers are doing all they can to help make life as normal as possible. School kits can help children gain some measure of control by focusing on learning. With each school kit we will include a message of hope and love from you so that the children will know that they remain in our hearts and minds.

Note: We will endeavor to provide kits for children on both sides of the border.

**[Please help provide school kits for the innocent victims of this war.](#)**

As always, we are inspired by your commitment to the things that truly matter in this life, and we are grateful to be part of your expression of faith and conscience. We will be sure and follow up to let you know where and how your gifts have made a difference.

Blessings to you as always,  
Vince Isner and the FaithfulAmerica.org Team

### **ATTENTION GARDENERS!!**

Have you ever taken a good look at our courtyard and thought "You know, this could be something *really* special!" or "Wouldn't this make a great "peace garden" or a quiet and refreshing "meditation garden", etc.?" If so, the opportunity you have been waiting for has arrived. The Building and Grounds Committee hosted a grounds clean-up day in May. Several members volunteered their time to prune, rake, trim, power wash, and generally clean up the 7th Street area, the landscaping in the front of the church, and the courtyard. The effort was no less than inspiring. One of our volunteers spent several hours uncovering the remains of totally forgotten dry stream buried under a thriving cover of ivy. Encouraged by the results of our efforts, several of us began making suggestions for additional improvements. We talked about up-lighting of some of the courtyard trees and illuminating the stained glass windows in the chapel during Lent, Advent, and other times when there are activities downtown. There was no shortage of either ideas or enthusiasm. Larry Shoudel, chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, took note.

As a result, the Committee, under Larry's leadership, formed a Landscaping sub-Committee which was charged with making recommendations for landscape improvements to the Committee for its consideration, coordinating the church's efforts with those of the city (which is planning a major renovation of Capital Avenue including landscaping) in the near future, and developing strategies for grounds maintenance. Sharon Bilotti agreed to serve as chair of this sub-Committee. Kay McKee, Pam Hayes and Joe Hills have already volunteered as committee members. We will be meeting soon to begin our task and encourage all of you "wannabe gardeners" to join us in developing and implementing the church's plans for revitalizing our grounds.

As Christians, it is our duty to be stewards of the earth and to preserve and enhance the environment for the benefit and enjoyment of all. This project should offer a great and fun challenge for those of us who feel God's presence while working in a garden. ***If you can join us, please contact Sharon Bilotti by phone at 787-4934 or by e-Mail at [gbilotti@midwest.net](mailto:gbilotti@midwest.net) within the next two weeks. Bring your ideas and inspirations ..... no "pruners" quite yet.*** ~ Sharon Bilotti

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

## **September 2006**

### **1\*FRIDAY**

12:00 p.m. - Christian Nurture Committee

### **3\*SUNDAY**

8:15 a.m. - Chapel Worship Service

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens

9:00 a.m. - Adult Programming

10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour

### **4\*MONDAY**

**Church and Office closed for Labor Day**

### **5\*TUESDAY**

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

### **6\*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

- Liturgical Dance Class

- Friends of the Sangamon Valley

### **7\*THURSDAY**

12:00 p.m. - Personnel Committee

5:30 p.m. - Yoga Class

7:00 p.m. - Deacons

- Parents Without Partners

- Society for Creative Anachronism

7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

### **9\*SATURDAY**

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

### **10\*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. - Fall Festival/All Church Picnic

### **12\*TUESDAY**

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

### **13\*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

- Liturgical Dance Class

### **14\*THURSDAY**

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

5:30 p.m. - Yoga Class

6:30 p.m. - Parents Without Partners

7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

### **15\*FRIDAY**

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

### **17\*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

### **18\*MONDAY**

7:00 p.m. - Faith Circle

### **19\*TUESDAY**

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

### **20\*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

- Liturgical Dance Class

### **21\*THURSDAY**

5:30 p.m. - Yoga Class

7:00 p.m. - Session

- Society for Creative Anachronism

7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

### **24\*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

### **26\*TUESDAY**

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

10:00 a.m. - Elder Hostel

### **27\*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

- Liturgical Dance Class

### **28\*THURSDAY**

5:30 p.m. - Yoga Class

7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

### **29\*FRIDAY**

Ogden/Rogers Rehearsal

### **30\*SATURDAY**

4:00 p.m. - Ogden/Rogers Ceremony