

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
321 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS 62701

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DEADLINE for September issue:
August 20, 2007



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH UPDATE

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

August 2007

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

321 S. 7th Street
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www.lincolnschurch.org

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SPARC, Janitorial

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

WORSHIP/CLASSES

Sundays:

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

Editorial Coordinator and
Production-Cindy Cass



Fall Craft and Bake Sale

Saturday, October 6
8 a.m. - 2 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.

Last year was a huge success so.....

LET'S DO IT AGAIN!

Not "crafty" or a baker? Monetary donations will also
be accepted and applied
toward more crafts being made for the sale.



THE CHURCH IS NOT A VOLUNTARY SOCIETY

During the last decade an increasing number of Americans believe Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior. During the same period of time participation in the life of the church has declined. One could conclude that if belief in Jesus Christ increased, then membership in the Church of Jesus Christ would also have increased. How can it be that personal belief in Jesus rose while commitment to the Church of Jesus Christ declined? Why does belief in Christ not carry with it a commitment to Christ's Church?

While other conclusions are possible this much must be admitted: We live in a society that has become individualistic. Independence is our cultural bias. Inter-dependence . . . to this we have an allergy.

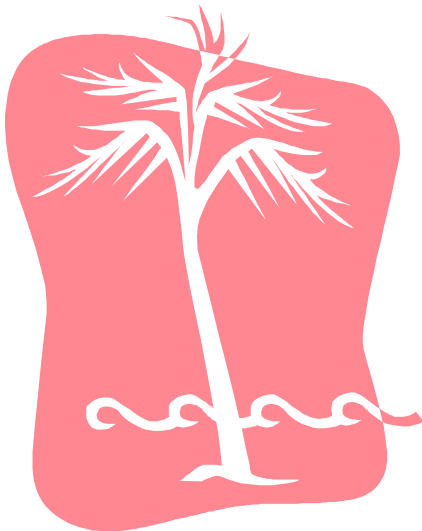
Robert N. Bellah in his penetrating book, *Habits of the Heart, Individualism and Commitment in American Life*, maintains that the almighty "I" has become a god.

Preoccupation with individualism has had an impact on our understanding of Christian faith and life. The church has become merely one more commodity in a consumer-oriented society. Even for those who 'believe' in Jesus, the church is seen as necessary or useful – only to the extent that one's needs are met. The church is a 'voluntary society' to which one is free to join or not join . . . free to come to and to go from.

Jesus Christ said, "You did not choose me . . . I chose you!" Have you ever wondered why there is such an odd assortment of people in the church? Most organizations consist of members who are like-minded, or who share a common need, or whose interests are similar, or whose personality or intellectual profiles correspond. In the church this is not the case. In Christ "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." (Gal 3:28) All are accepted. All of us are one. Christ is our common denominator.

A person simply cannot be a Christian independently . . . in isolation. Christianity is a communal society.

The Presbyterian Church (P.C.U.S.A) in its historic document *A Declaration of Faith* boldly proclaims the vitality and the necessity of Christ's Church. The document affirms: "*We acknowledge that Christ chooses to be known in the world through this community of ordinary people, therefore we dare not despise or abandon the church. Christ is the head of the church, therefore we are responsible to Christ when we make policy and decisions in the church. Christ is the foundation of the church, therefore it will not fail despite our weakness. We are confident that the Lord of the church will judge and defeat our sinful intentions and actions, help us in our weakness and blindness, and use the church to accomplish his purposes.*"



Kasavada
Alfred J. Joyce

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION IT'S A HAPPENING THING!!!

Members of the New Mission Church of God prepare a full breakfast for members of the homeless community every Sunday. On other days of the week, the staff of the Washington Street Mission serves coffee and donuts to the homeless. The breakfast on Sunday has become very popular. As many as 75 individuals have attended. Members of First Presbyterian have been invited to be a partner in mission. Several of our members have been helping serve the breakfast. This is a well organized event. Food is prepared by a member of the New Mission Church, and it is then brought to the Mission and served out of the kitchen there. Coffee is provided at 8:00 a.m. Breakfast is served between 8:15 and 9:15. Clean up is complete by 9:45.

New Mission Church of God has invited First Presbyterian Church members to assume responsibility for one breakfast a month or more if possible. This request has been considered by those who have been helping. Don Ecklund graciously volunteered to cook breakfast on July 1, and five other members helped serve. The simple menu of cheese grits, ham, and fresh fruit was easy to prepare and well received.

This experience was felt by all to be personally rewarding and of value to the partnership with New Mission Church of God. Several members of that church are always present at the breakfast and assist in setting up. This allows us time to get to know these members on an individual basis. Our participation also gives us an opportunity to interact with members of the homeless community and to understand better the issues with which they are dealing.

All of this has led to a desire to proceed with a plan to respond positively to the request made by the New Mission Church of God. An organizational meeting took place at the home of Kathi Eads on 7/3/07 and was attended by eight members, including Don Ecklund, Ed Cunningham, Pat Vaughn, Dennis Johnson, Karen Anderson, Jerry Cole, Kathi Eads, and Susan Harris. Cliff Hayes was also in attendance.

The plan will be to cook and serve the breakfast on the fourth Sunday of the month. A sign up sheet will be posted in the Fellowship Hall. One or more cooks and 5-6 servers are needed each month. Members of the organizational group have signed up to cook for the months of July, August, and September. Cooks can use the menu created by Don Ecklund or may decide on a menu of their own. Cooks will be reimbursed for the cost of the food items or have the option of adding this cost to their church contribution.

It has been exciting to see the support and enthusiasm for this project grow over the past few weeks. We wish to invite all members of the church to become a part of this ministry. Participation in the breakfast mission offers active involvement in reconciliation.



Youth and Family

ATTENTION: ANY PERSON INTERESTED IN TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL!!

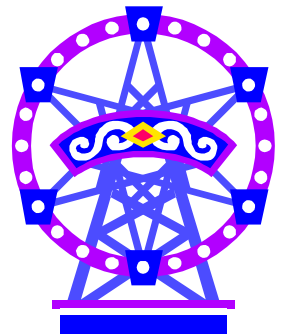
If you're interested in teaching Sunday School for the 2007-2008 year, please join us in the Office of Youth and Family Ministry on **August 19th** at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast and overview of the year. This will be a prime opportunity to browse the curriculum and pick out lessons for the year! Please call Shannon at church (528-4311) if you have any questions or plan to attend.

Mark Your Calendars....W.I.L.D. Wednesday's will return on September 12th!!!

More information to follow in the September newsletter.

FANTASTIC FUN AT THE ILLINOIS STATE FAIR!!

Kids of all ages are invited to join us for a trip to the Illinois State Fair on Preview Night, Thursday, Aug. 9. We'll meet in the church parking lot at 5 p.m. and take the city bus to the fairgrounds to watch the end of the State Fair Twilight Parade and have fun trying the rides. We will return to the church parking following the fireworks display at approximately 10 10 p.m.



Admission is free on Preview Night and rides are discounted. The office of Youth and Family Ministries will help with expenses as needed, but each child is asked to bring \$5 if possible. ADULT VOLUNTEERS are welcome to join us for the fun!

E-mail shannon@lincolnschurch.org or chris@lincolnschurch.org or call the church for more information.

COME AND LEARN THE WALTZ, SWING, AND CHA-CHA!

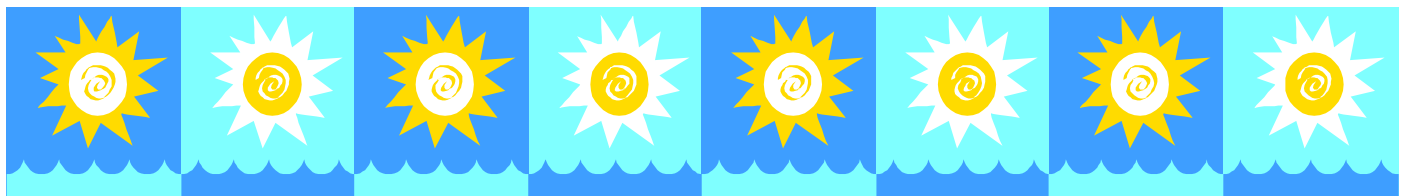
We're revving up to begin Beginning Ballroom Dance Classes again! We had a blast and many laughs the first time!! A five-week course, taught by Jo and J.D. Campbell, will begin Tuesday, August 7th and continue on 8/14, 8/21, 8/28, and 9/4. Students will meet in Fellowship Hall from 6:30-8:00 p.m. for dancing and dessert! The cost is \$40 per couple and is due prior to the start of classes. If you're interested in registering for this class, please contact Shannon at church (528-4311). There is limited availability, so reserve your spot today!



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



2	14	28
Carol Dove	Martha Eberle	Riitta Anderson
James Dove	Cathy Slater	
Bee Simmons		30
	17	Ruth Smith
5	Maria Gottschalk	
Ernie Webster		31
	18	Gregory Ruff
6	Phyllis Brooks	Vilayphone Thongsithavong
Richard Risku	Melynda Legg	
	Jess Patton	
11		
Dan Greer	19	
Mary Jane MacDonald	Liza Purnell	
Bennett Stephens	Larry Shoudel	
12	23	
Barb Murphy	Isabel Hart-Wottowa	
Doris Prather		
Philip Joseph Jin-Young	25	
	Peggy Heflin	
13		
Weston Stephens		



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 AUGUST 2007

5th: Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Colossians 3:1-11
 Luke 12:13-21

12th: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23;
 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

19th: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; Hebrews 11:29—12:2
 Luke 12:49-56

26th: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29
 Luke 13:10-17

Children's Miracle Network

The Children's Miracle Network is again selling discounted Illinois State Fair tickets to benefit central Illinois kids. The one-day ride ticket is \$22. Tickets are good for both kids and adults, aren't dated and are good open to close Monday through Friday and Saturdays and Sundays until 7 p.m. These discount tickets are available only through Children's Miracle Network.

Tickets are available at: Ace Hardware, Athens Village Market, Big R (Springfield, Lincoln, Taylorville), Blue Cross/Blue Shield (Springfield), County Market/Cub Foods Stores, Credit Union for Kids locations, Dairy Queen (Jacksonville, Taylorville), Express Personnel Services, Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, K'Raes/Hilton Gift Shop, MC Sports, Porgy's, Sam's Club (Springfield), SIU School of Medicine, Speedway SuperAmerica, Touch of Class by Shirley, and Wal-Mart (Clinton, Jacksonville, Lincoln, Springfield, Taylorville).

They can also be ordered at (217) 544-KIDS (5437) or www.cmnspringfield.com. A portion of the all proceeds benefits Children's Miracle Network.

Children's Miracle Network and St. John's Children's Hospital has raised over \$8 million dollars benefiting over one million central and southern Illinois children. 100% of funds raised go to children's programs, services, equipment, and research at St. Johns Children's Hospital in partnership with SIU School of Medicine.

SUCCESSFUL RUMMAGE SALE

Our All Church Rummage Sale was held on June 8-10th. Many people helped clean out the church as well as their homes. Fellowship Hall was turned into a huge garage. A picture is on our web site for you to see what great bargains we had. Many long hours were put in moving, cleaning and pricing items. Thanks to my committee and many others we had fun, renewing or establishing new friendships. We also did some reminiscing of years gone by when we had other rummage sales to raise money to send our youth on choir or camping trips.

Our customers were surprised to see the top quality merchandise we had for sale. We continued to sell items until the last were donated to Salvation Army and Goodwill organizations. We are glad to say that the chairs of many colors and sizes were put to good use at two other churches and the Boys and Girls Club. Everyone seemed pleased with their purchases and some came back more than once.

With the sales and monetary donations we cleared \$2,016.85. The Building and Grounds Committee has decided to give the Holy Clippers Garden Project \$1,000.00 and \$1,016.85 will be used toward carpet for the Church/Food Pantry Office on the first floor.

To my committee: Cindy Cass, Carolyn Cunningham, Carolee Drennan, Joyce Freyder, June Greer, Joann Wehrle, Linda Wheal and many other helpers: Mel Slusser, Jerry Cole, Norma Najim, Candy Stout, Chris Wheal, Terry Finney, Sandy Finney, Dan Greer, Susan Enlow, Susan Harris, Kathy Hoffman, Don Ecklund, Clark McKee, Publicity (Pam Hayes, Chris Young, Cindy Cass,) Furniture Haulers, (Tom Melton, Mike Self) and to the many people who donated items,

WE WISH TO SAY THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR SALE A HUGE SUCCESS.

Kay McKee and Cindy Cass Co-Chairman

Food Pantry News

Thank you to all for your donations to the First Pres Food Bank. Summer has been busy at the bank. A welcome donation was made by Nancy Ashbaugh and her fellow retired telephone personnel. Thank you to the "Telephone Pioneers." The Food Bank still needs your help. Due to the increased demand, the bank has been running low but has been able to stay open. For our August donations, we are requesting canned fruit or any other staple canned food that you can provide. In June, the congregation donated 48 canned or packaged goods and 29 personal care items. This brings the congregational donation total to 794 items this year.

Through June of this year, the food bank has served 1256 Adults, 602 Children, and 699 Sack Lunches.

Awesome! Please keep supporting the great work done by our food bank.

No2Torture! - Ann Weems (written May 4, 2007)

What happened that the world doesn't know what the church stands for?
What happened? What happened? What happened?

What have we in the church been doing
when we should have been voicing,
should have been making clear
who we are ... who Jesus is????

Has it come to this?
That we in the church must say –
must shout, must stand -
for what we believe?
Does the world no longer know us by our fruits?

Do we have to have a discussion,
to inform the world that the Church says “No 2 Torture”?
Is there any doubt that the church of Jesus Christ does not condone torture?
Any question - any room for discussion?

What's happened to us - the church of Jesus Christ?
Jesus who said, “Love your neighbor as you love yourself”?
Jesus who said, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”?
What happened?
Who is it who came along
and changed the Word of God?
There is no room for torture in the words of Jesus.

He did not say: ‘return evil for evil.’
He did not say: ‘hit back.’
He said, “Turn the other cheek.”
He said, “Love your enemies.”
He said, “Follow me.”
The world should have heard us -
shouting good news from the roof tops,
singing Alleluias in the streets of the world!

The world should have seen us
praying for our enemies.
The world should have seen us
following the Prince of Peace.
Oh, God, may they see us now!
Oh, God, may they hear us now!
“No - 2 - Torture!”

All activities take place in the church unless otherwise noted

August 2007

1*WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service
6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering
6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group
- Film Club

2*THURSDAY

4:30 p.m. - Personnel Committee
7:00 p.m. - Deacons

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
6:30 p.m. - Ballroom Dancing Classes

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

10*FRIDAY

7:00 p.m. - Poetry Club @ Wehrle's Home

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. - Worship Service
11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour
2:00 p.m. - Kim Schoenberg Recital

14*TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study Section II
6:30 p.m. - Ballroom Dancing Classes

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

16*THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. - Session

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

20*MONDAY

7:00 p.m. - Faith Circle

21*TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study Section II
6:30 p.m. - Ballroom Dancing Classes

22*WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service
6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering
6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group
- Film Club

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
6:30 p.m. - Ballroom Dancing Classes

29*WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service
6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering
6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group
- Film Club

