

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
321 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS 62701

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH UPDATE

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

September 2007

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.lincolnschurch.org

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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.



Pastors Column

During the early 1980's our family lived in "the thumb" of Michigan. In that beautiful lake-dominated setting, I took great delight in reading Sydney J. Harris' columns in the big city newspaper — *The Detroit Free Press*. Occasionally he would write a piece entitled *Things I learned in route to looking up other things*. Among his many thoughtful and pithy remarks are these:

Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time; what we really want is for things to remain the same but get better.

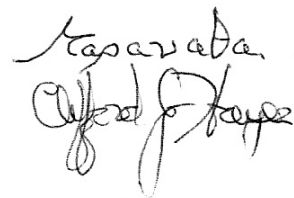
When I hear somebody sigh, "Life is hard," I am always tempted to ask, "Compared to what?"

Harris had a gift for highlighting obvious, but overlooked, realities — such as the fact that the acquisition of knowledge can be a labor-intensive enterprise. Harris wrote,

The common notion . . . that education ought to be painless does not apply to any other area. The athlete sweats and strains, exercises and conditions, to obtain mastery over a chosen field; the auto mechanic goes back to technical school to become acquainted with the new electronic gadgetry; the business executive toils amid the increasing complexity of global competition. Only when it comes to the great thinkers and writers, the theorists of ideas, the scholars and sages, do we complain of "difficulty" — as though the hardest thoughts should be the simplest and clearest to express, while everything else in the world is getting more complicated.

First Presbyterian Church is ready to "kick-off" a new year of Christian education opportunities. Isn't it interesting that churches use this sports term to mark the beginning of faith-nurturing classes for the season? Yes, we who prepare these Christian education events would like to capture the excitement of what we have to offer — and encourage you as an "athlete of the faith." To that end we have worked to plan diverse events for both children and adults to think more deeply about what God is calling each of us to do — events that we feel are intriguing and challenging. Look for these events in this newsletter, on the church bulletin boards, on our webpage: www.lincolnschurch.org.

If you commit to this year's journey, you will sometimes find the going difficult, but many times you will find it fun and rewarding. Plumbing the breadth and mystery of God is not something you can sit back and let wash over you. Jumping in, making time for an extra "meeting," reading scripture and books about faith . . . these things will help you as you respond to God's call for a deeper intimacy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kasarada Alfred J. Hayes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and 'A'.

Christian Education Opportunities at First Presbyterian Church

Youth Opportunities:

Workshop Rotation Model Sunday School is offered to our youth in grades pre-K through 8th grade from 9 to 10 a.m. Workshop Rotation seeks to teach featured Bible lessons through rotations such as art, cooking, computers and science. This year's theme is Great Moments of Faith! Classes are held on the second floor of the education wing.

A NEW Senior High School Sunday school for youth in grades 9 through 12 will be offered from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. A new contemporary program is being developed with input from students and guidance from church staff. Youth meet in the Youth and Family Ministries office on the second floor of the education wing.

Our NEWLY renovated and relocated nursery offers a Biblically based lesson and activity for children each Sunday during the Sunday school hour. Nursery staff is available beginning at 8:45 a.m. for children infant through age 5. The nursery is just located inside the garden entrance off 7th Street.

Adult Opportunities:

Lectionary-based adult Bible study begins in Cook Lounge at 9 a.m. A weekday morning Bible study also is held starting at 7:30 a.m. Tuesdays that meet in Fellowship Hall.

ACES, Adult Christian Education, gathers in the Chapel beginning at 9 a.m. ACEs focuses on and explores contemporary issues such as the environment and current affairs and how they relate to our faith in today's world.

Youth Group Programs:

W.I.L.D. Wednesday's (Word In Love and Deed) gathers on Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. starting with a carry-in supper at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Adult led youth activities are offered to children age Kindergarten through 5th grade. Other groups such as the Sanctuary Choir, knitting group, and quilting group meet on Wednesday's as well. This is a great opportunity for a spouse of a choir member to get involved in some fun while mentoring our youth!

Youth events and outings, such as horseback riding, picnics and trips to special events and destinations are designed for fun and fellowship. First Presbyterian Church youth also participate in mission-oriented events like the annual CROP Walk.

Special Ministries:

The Ecology Ministry, now being undertaken in partnership with the New Mission Church of God, is an innovative series of programs designed to better acquaint church members with God's creation and foster concern for stewardship of the environment. This ministry is supported by a grant from the Synod of Lincoln Trails.

U2 Eucharist ministry: This quarterly communion worship service raises money for the poorest citizens in the World and features the music of U2, a popular rock group with lyrics steeped in faith and the Bible. Offerings totaling \$4,426.26 have purchased malaria nets to protect children from the deadly mosquito-borne illness and gone to assist children whose parents have died of AIDS.

Youth and Family

YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE WITH US!

The Christian Nurture committee would like to invite our fellow church family members to partake in celebrating Christian Nurture Sunday, September 9th. We're celebrating the remodel and relocation of the nursery (including beautiful cabinetry built by Sherwin Kroll) and the kick-off of Sunday school. Festivities will include lunch, cake, and the chance to include your handprint on the wall of our new nursery. Sunday school teachers for the 2007-2008 year will be commissioned during service as well. If you are currently a teacher or would like to be a teacher, please join us during service to celebrate the gifts you bring to our ministry!

W.I.L.D. Wednesday's to Begin September 12th!!

W.I.L.D. WEDNESDAY'S will return on September 12th!! To begin our program we will be preparing for a visit to the restaurant "Capisce?" on the top floor of the Hilton on September 26th.

Part one of our etiquette series will begin Sept. 12:

We will have a brief etiquette session on the skills needed to enjoy dessert with friends in a fancy restaurant. We will be building self-esteem and respect for others, and at the same time we will have lots of fun in this informative W.I.L.D. Wednesday series. The second part will be Sept. 19.

Topics we will cover include: The correct way to pick up your napkin and where to place it after meals. . .

Posture at the table and how to excuse yourself from the table, politely. . . The correct way to use your knife, fork and spoon.

All children up to 5th grade are invited to participate in W.I.L.D. Wednesdays. We begin at 6:00 p.m. by sharing potluck dinner with our fellow church members, then to our program until 7:30 p.m. Call Shannon or Chris at the Office of Youth and Family Ministries for more details (528-4311).

YOUTH TO RIVERSIDE STABLES

Youth up to 8th grade are invited to join us at Riverside Stables (2310 Chinchilla Lane, Springfield, Illinois) on September 30th. All youth will meet in the church parking lot at 3:30 p.m., returning at 7:30 p.m. We will enjoy pony rides, a hayrack ride, and wiener roast during our visit. Each youth is encouraged to bring \$5 for participation. Please call Shannon or Chris at 528-4311 if your youth plans to attend. We will need to plan transportation accordingly.

Fall Fling Fundraiser

Join us Friday, September 28th for an evening of dancing in Fellowship Hall. Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a dance floor as we learn some Latin moves and enjoy an evening of dancing. This is an opportunity for the ballroom dancing students to try out their new skills and for those more seasoned dancers to show off their expertise!

The fun begins at 7 p.m. All are encouraged to attend and participate whether you have skill or need to gain some skill!

The Office of Youth and Family Ministries will be accepting donations so we can continue offering events such as these in the future!

Please call Shannon at 528-4311 for more information. Details will continue to be posted on our website at www.lincolnschurch.org and in the Sunday bulletin.

A C E 's for September

Join the Ace's in the Chapel during September to learn of our new youth and ecology program and to discuss together what we believe and don't believe using our 1977-91 Confession as a guide. Copies of the Confession will be available for all in the Office. Chris Young will start our Fall program on September 9th telling us about the new youth program. The following three Sundays, the 16th, 23rd and 30th we will read, discuss and strengthen our faith and understanding by considering this recent Confession of our church. Nothing can strengthen our faith more than discussion with our fellow Christians. Welcome to all. Chapel at Nine each Sunday. Please join us.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



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

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 2007

2nd: Jeremiah 2:-4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
 Luke 14:1, 7-14
 9th: Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Philemon 1:21
 Luke 14:25-33
 16th: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17
 Luke 15:1-10
 23rd: Jeremiah 8:18—9:1; Psalm 79:1-9; 1 Timothy 2:1-7
 Luke 16:1-13
 30th : Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16;
 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

This - N - That

Book Club News

We are almost ready to start another year of reading. Book selections are still trickling in and we'll have the entire schedule ready soon, but here's a heads up on the fall months' meetings:

The book for September is *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls; the reviewer is Kathy Hoffman and the meeting will also be at Kathy's, 1218 West Pine. October's book is *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini (author of *The Kite Runner*). Barb VonBehren will review the book and Ruth Smith will host at 14 Sarah. For November, we'll read *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro (author of *Remains of the Day*) and we'll meet at the home of Jennie Claflin, 1930 S. 4th Street.

The schedule will be completed shortly so watch the newsletter for more information and the bulletin for meeting reminders. Remember our meetings are usually on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. We welcome all who are interested whether or not you have read the current book.

Crop Walk

Springfield Area CROP Hunger Walk will be Sunday, October 7, 2007. Registration is 1:00 p.m. and Step-Off at 1:30 p.m. from the Capitol Building, East Capitol Steps at 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois. While this is a 6 mile walk, there are opportunities for walking shorter distances.

Please keep your ears open on Sunday mornings for First Presbyterian Church's Minutes for Mission for CROP Walk, and keep a look out for our kids who are collecting pledges, and asking you to make donations to this wonderful ministry.

Last year, the CROP Walk in Springfield raised over \$14,600, and 25% of this amount was distributed among local food pantries --First Presbyterian Food Pantry, Grace Lutheran Church Food Pantry, Holy Family Food Pantry, Kumler Neighborhood Ministries, St. John's Breadline, and Riverton Community Food Pantry.

Church World Service uses the remaining funds to provide help and medical supplies to hunger victims in areas like Indonesia, Philippines, Darfur and Sudan.

www.churchworldservice.org/CROP has up-to-date details on aid throughout the world.

Food Pantry News

Happy 'school's back in' from the food pantry! In July we received 89 donations, which brings the year to date total to 883. We were able to serve 306 adults, 182 children and 181 sack lunches thanks to your generous support of the pantry. The featured item for September is good ol' SPAM. Spam is a food pantry basic and one of the most expensive items in the pantry so we appreciate the donations even more. Thanks again.

Poetry at First

Come join us at Mike and LuAnn Atkin's home Friday September 14th at 7:00 p.m. Bring a poem to read, come to listen, or come to see the beautiful yard of the Atkins. All welcome.

Partnering for Mission:

Mission Trip to Mexico

November 14 - 17, 2007

Members of the New Mission Church of God congregation are going on a mission trip to Mexico to help build a community center. First Presbyterian Church members are invited to join in this ministry with our sister church. The cost of the trip is \$600; one half of the cost of the trip is due September 15. Please e-mail Sister Valera at New Mission Church of God for more information: valeralea@aol.com



More This - N - That

Best Kept Secret – Wednesday Evening at First Church

Dare to break out of your habit of spending Wednesday evening at home. Join your friends and brothers and sisters in Christ for Vespers at 5:30 and Potluck at six followed by choir practice, quilting, cards, games, activities for children and a general good time and fellowship for all. Vespers is a wonderful, quiet time to center your week and give yourself the peace of prayer and meditation. Potluck is good luck culinary happenings every week. Wonderful food accompanied by fun and conversation for every taste.

Every Wednesday evening. See you there. If you don't come, you will never know!

Wednesday night Enthusiast, Roy Wehrle

Yoga at First Pres

The next YogaFit class will be starting on Thursday, September 6th, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Classes will run continuously through the fall and winter and Cris is implementing a new payment method using a punch card system. This will allow participants to pay for classes at a bulk rate without worrying about losing money in the event that they miss a class. Purchase 6 classes for \$50 and attend at your convenience. There will still be a drop-in rate of \$10 for visitors or infrequent exercisers who just want a one-time class. Also, a free trial lesson is offered for anyone who wants to find out whether YogaFit suits them. To register call (793-1933) or email Cris Martin (cmartinized@hotmail.com) or just come on September 6th. Classes are held in Room 208 of the Education Building. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat or large towel and prepare to enjoy the benefits of this system of strengthening and relaxation.

News of Gordon and Betty McLean

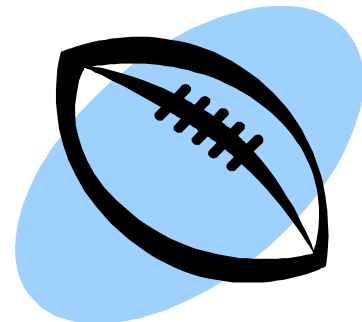
I had dinner with Gordon and Betty McLean in Inverness in July. I had come up the Caledonian Canal on "Lord of the Glens" with an alumni group from Harvard and Yale. We came through the lochs and the locks without a scratch, but Gordon says that has not always been so. When the captain first took on the ship, he stationed a seaman on the towpath with a can of paint and a brush.

The McLean's are in fine form. They have been traveling all over the British Isles, relishing being home. Gordon reads the Journal-Register every day to keep up with Springfield news. He was eager to talk about the Abraham Lincoln Association and the new museum. Both he and Betty wanted to know how friends were doing. I am sure that they would welcome letters - and better yet, visitors.

Sally Robinson

Free Adoption Information Meeting

Children all over the world are in need of a loving family. Have you recently considered adoption? Not sure where to start? Sunny Ridge Family Center invites you to attend a free Domestic and International Adoption Information Meeting on Thursday, September 20, at 7:00 p.m. Join us at Crosse Pointe Church of God, 3101 Airport road in Bloomington. Come learn about children in need of a home domestically and internationally. Hear about the process and the requirements for adopting. Sunny Ridge is a state-licensed, nonprofit agency devoted to serving children and building families around the world (ID # 019976). For more information or to register for the free meeting, please call Sunny Ridge at (800) 222-9588 ext. 540 or visit our website at www.sunnyridge.org.



Housing Ministry

The gift to Displaced Homemakers at Lincoln Land Community College grew out of a process begun about seven months ago with congregation-wide meetings to imagine what new ministries our church can be involved in. One of the working groups came to the Session in April with the recommendation that \$8,000 be spent from a local mission trust fund for the purpose of supporting students in the Displaced Homemakers program at LLCC. The college receives a state grant which falls short of meeting the needs of these students who are learning professional and technical skills to support themselves and their families. The Career Development office chose as recipient a nursing student with two young children who were at the time living in a friend's basement. The funds are used entirely for rent. In addition, personal, mentoring relationships are being formed with members of our congregation. To the right is a letter of thanks from the College.



Aid to Darfur

The Mission Committee suggests that members of the congregation not only support aid to Darfur but also that we do some lobbying. Anyone in the Federal government can be contacted through addresses on the web site <www.usa.gov>.

On August 7, the Journal-Register printed an editorial by Nicholas Kristof who made, we think, some effective suggestions for us as a nation to do.

1. We need to demonstrate to Sudan that our satellites are watching their moves to wipe out beleaguered camps with thousands of refugees.
2. The U.S. should make contingency plans in case Sudan starts mass killings in the refuge camps or resumes attacks on Southern Sudan.
3. We need to work with other countries to insist that Sudan stop resettling thousands of Arabs from neighboring countries to repopulate areas where the local population has been slaughtered. The new settlements seal consequences of genocide and make peace that much harder to bring about.
4. The United States needs to take an active part in assisting the rebels who are now meeting in Tanzania to develop a united front.
5. The U.S. can urge Muslim leaders all over the world to push for peace.
6. We should work with Britain and France to enforce the U.N.'s ban on offensive military flights in Darfur. It is controversial whether a tit-for-tat strategy would be effective: Sudan president Omar Hassan al-Bashir bombs a village; the allies retaliate by destroying one of his Chinese planes. This may lead to greater fury on his part - or it may show him that his actions have consequences.
7. We need to work with France to stabilize Chad and Central African Republic. "President Sarkozy is pushing for European peacekeepers to rescue both countries after Sudanese-sponsored proxy invasions."
8. Nicholas Sarkozy and Gordon Brown as new leaders, have been discussing a trip to Chad which Sudan is now destabilizing. Bush could join them or at least urge China and Egypt to go along. They are being less than helpful in urging Sudan toward peace. We should try to persuade China "to suspend arms shipments to Sudan until Khartoum makes a serious effort at peace."
9. Bush should bring Darfur refugees to the White House for a photo-op.

All activities take place in the church unless otherwise noted

September 2007

2*SUNDAY

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*MONDAY

Church and Office closed for Labor Day

4*TUESDAY

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

5*WEDNESDAY

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

6*THURSDAY

4:30 p.m. - Personnel Committee
5:30 p.m. - YogaFit Class
7:00 p.m. - Deacons

8*SATURDAY

10:00 a.m. - CIOP Meeting
6:00 p.m. - Second Saturday Supper Club

9*SUNDAY -CHRISTIAN NURTURE SUNDAY

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

11*TUESDAY

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

12*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

13*THURSDAY

5:30 p.m. - YogaFit Class

14*FRIDAY

5:00 p.m. - Carnes/Underwood Wedding Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. - First Pres Poetry Group @ Atkins Home

15*SATURDAY

3:00 p.m. - Carnes/Underwood Wedding

16*SUNDAY

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. - Nancy Chapin Cello Concert

17*MONDAY

7:00 p.m. - Faith Circle

18*TUESDAY

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

19*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

20*THURSDAY

5:30 p.m. - YogaFit Class
6:30 p.m. - International Day of Peace Interfaith Service
7:00 p.m. - Session

21*FRIDAY

9:30 a.m. - Fairhills Circle @ The Presbyterian Home
6:00 p.m. - Kyes/Lewis Wedding Rehearsal

22*SATURDAY

3:30 p.m. - Kyes/Lewis Wedding

23*SUNDAY

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

25*TUESDAY

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

26*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

27*THURSDAY

5:30 p.m. - YogaFit Class
7:30 p.m. - First Pres Book Club @ Kathy Hoffmann Home

28*FRIDAY

7:00 p.m. - Fall Fling Fundraiser

30*SUNDAY

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
3:30 p.m. - Youth Trip to Riverside Stables