



First Presbyterian News

February 2012

Christ's Church: Singing a Song of Hope



“May the God of hope go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace,
Singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that's new,
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.”



This marvelous hymn, “Song of Hope,” or “Canto de Esperanza” in Spanish, that is Hymn #432 in our Presbyterian hymnal clearly tells us that the role of Christ's church today is to be a people of hope. As followers of Christ in a world filled with greed, materialism, lack of concern for neighbor, and many different forms of violence, we have something wonderful and unique to offer from God – hope that the ways things are will not be the way things will always be.

As we proceed further in our missional journey together, let us keep this in mind. God is at work in the world around us, through churches and through many other institutions and peoples. The Christian church of today must be flexible in its goals and programs, yet always rooted in the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ lest we in the church be left behind in God's plans for the world.

The church exists to further God's mission through Christ, in many different ways and in many different contexts. Each Christian congregation must work with its own unique challenges and opportunities. As our Session and leaders begin to work with the results of the Conference on the Future held in January, let us keep them in our prayers and support whatever changes they make in the mission and programs of the church wholeheartedly. God's mission needs each and every one of us, regardless of gifts, experience, or age. There is a role for all of us to play.

As we proceed with Christ through the Holy Spirit, let the words of the Song of Hope be our communal prayer, focusing us on the love and joy and peace that are the gifts we offer to our community.

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace . . .
Pastor Mary Ann Banning

WORSHIP is at **9:30 am every Sunday** with a short fellowship to follow.

Sunday School Classes begin at 10:45 am.

Office will be staffed 10 am to noon and 1 pm to 3 pm Mondays through Fridays by the Secretary, Kathy.

Financial Secretary Joan's hours are Tuesday and Thursday 9 am to noon.

***Lectionary for Sundays
Scripture Reference
February 2012***

February 5, 5th Sunday after Epiphany
Isa. 40:21-31
Ps. 147:1-11, 20c
1 Cor. 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39
February 12, 6th Sunday after Epiphany
2 Kings 5:1-14
Ps. 30
1 Cor. 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45
February 19, Transfiguration of the Lord
2 Kings 2:1-12
Ps. 50:1-6
2 Cor. 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9
February 22, Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa. 58:1-12
Ps. 51:1-17
2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10
Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21
February 26, 1st Sunday in Lent
Gen. 9:8-17
Ps. 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15



February Birthdays:

9th Roger DeLoof
20th Vincent Primmer

Nanette and David Tschida are happy to announce the engagement of Kristen to Jonathan Latszke. Both are graduates of Riley High School (2008) and Purdue (2012), Kristen will graduate with a Bachelor's in Animal Science. (Life ambition is to train animals) Jon will graduate with a Bachelor's in Computer Information Technology. He already has a job lined up after graduation working with Abbott Nutrition in Chicago.

Special thanks for all of the prayers as Kristy DeLee was receiving radiation treatments for brain cancer. Those are completed and appear to have been successful. She is now dealing with another problem. She can't stand, walk and has limited use of her hands. Kristy is presently (Jan.17) at Memorial Hospital to receive therapy. Please continue your prayers as we know how much they help with her healing.

Kristy also wants everyone to know how very much she appreciates all of the cards that she has received. She was really excited to receive all the Birthday Cards. She said it took her over an hour to open and read all the cards. According to Kristy it was the best Birthday she has had since she was a kid. We thank you for making this such a special day for her.

If there is a "secret Santa" among you special hugs go out to you.

We thank you for all the love, support and prayers that have been sent our way.

The DeLee and Dentino Families

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
Feb. 5	Ethan DeMaegd Bob Sloan Dick Dentino	Communion
Feb. 12	Carole Polk Bill Bellairs Neil Seifert	Chris Krafft
Feb. 19	Michael Green Judy Sulak Mikey Green	Victoria Green
Feb. 26	Dan Bruner Dave Tschida Justin Tschida	Shayna Frick

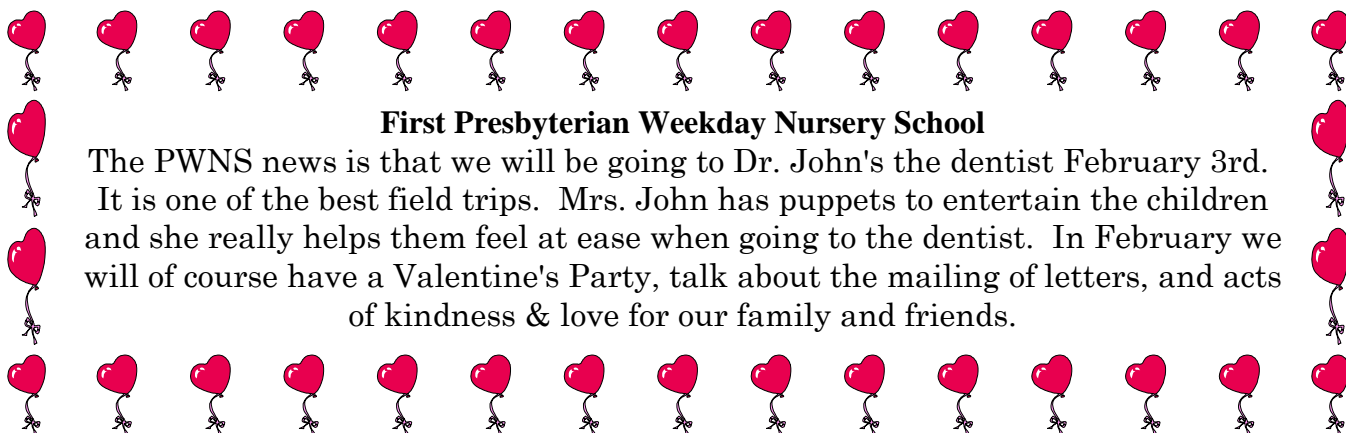
In remembrance: Mary Todd passed away on December 29, 2011 in Peoria, Illinois. Mary, who was 90 years old, was a pure delightful, loving and fun-loving woman while in our midst. Mary was a strong church supporter and served as a Deacon and with Presbyterian Women. We all missed her smiles and dedication to FPC when she moved to be close to family. Please remember her family in your prayers.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Well the numbers are in...we made, after expenses, \$1322.05! Well done ladies on a successful Bake Sale! Also we collected \$45.00 for our "Granddaughter" Mylene Caca's gift, which we sent so clothes could be purchased for her. We also sent her a Christmas box with some of the items on her want list and like all girls she wanted cute undies and hair accessories, plus some of Chuck's hard candy, homemade cookies, an ornament, and a few miscellaneous items. A Christmas card signed by women of church was included. So rest up because the next project is our Basement Sale in April. The next PWCT meeting will be at 9:00 a.m., March 10th. A Joint Circle will follow at 10:00 a.m. in

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP Presbyterian Women will take over the responsibility of asking folks to host Sunday Morning Fellowship. The PW Board is asking that Sunday Morning Fellowship be kept simple (donut holes, cookies) in order that children and adults can get to Sunday School classes on time. Those hosting will only be asked to make coffee, tea and provide a simple snack. Coffee, tea and juice will be available in the kitchen. More formal fellowships will still be provided by special groups for special occasions such as St. Andrew's Day and Presbyterian Women's Birthday Sunday. The sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Christian Education Lobby.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK



First Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School

The PWNS news is that we will be going to Dr. John's the dentist February 3rd. It is one of the best field trips. Mrs. John has puppets to entertain the children and she really helps them feel at ease when going to the dentist. In February we will of course have a Valentine's Party, talk about the mailing of letters, and acts of kindness & love for our family and friends.

Did you know that February 2nd used to be celebrated each year? This is the half way point between the first day of winter and the first day of spring. It was called "Feast of Lights" and the "Candlemas" which is when the candles for the Church were blessed for the next year.

Monday afternoon **Prayer Group** meets in Memorial Lounge at 1:00 p.m. every Monday. All are welcome as we pray for needs and concerns in our congregation and the world.

Next Newsletter deadline is February 17 at noon.
Mail information to church or email
Sue at fpcnewseditor@fpcmishawaka.org or
Church Secretary Kathy at kathy@fpcmishawaka.org.
Thank you.

The Scrapbook Club
will meet on Friday, February 24th, from 6 pm to 11 pm in Fellowship Hall. A light snack and drinks will be provided. The cost is \$5. Scrapbookers, crafters, painters, all are welcome, if you would like to work on another project and need to set aside the time, please join us. I hope to see you soon. (RSVPs are appreciated) Brittany

Book Club is meeting Sunday, February the 19th at 4 pm. The book is *Princess: A True Story of Life Behind the Veil* by Jean Sasson. Bonnie Bonham will lead the discussion, with Pam Camren covering the hosting. An open invitation is extended to all our church family to join us.

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission committee welcomes Wayne Priddy as our new committee chairman. We look forward to working with Wayne. The Mission committee members: Janet Freeman, Betty Johnson, Mary Ann Dentino, Claudia Riggs, Anna Bowers.

PRESBYTERIANS TODAY

It has been decided to reduce the number of copies the church receives of PRESBYTERIANS TODAY. Beginning in February, 2012 there will be a total of six copies to be shared by interested readers. One copy will be available in the church library and the remainder on tables in Memorial Lounge. You are invited to take one of the copies home with you and after reading, return it so others can also keep abreast of the news within the PCUSA.

The cover story in the December, 2011 issue, The Church for a New Generation is especially appropriate in today's world. Quoting Adrian McMullen, an associate for college ministries, "Young adults aren't interested in "doing church" the same way. They are interested in living their faith, but not necessarily organized the way it has been".

GIFTS

December 19, 2011

Raul's finishing touches left behind a perfect circle of smooth, wet concrete. Victor turned off the cement mixer engine, and our ears could now hear gobbling turkeys and giggling children while local volunteers cleaned the shovels with water-soaked pieces of empty cement bags. With the foundation pour complete, it was time for us to begin the hour and a half drive back to Xpujil. While thanking the foremen and villagers for our time together, the new cistern's owner drew close to us and said, "Vamos a comer" Translation: "Let's eat." Normally, the cistern recipient family feeds the visiting foremen, but not us—the Americans. Materially poor families, large group sizes, and delicate stomachs are the reasons why. But on that February day, we were only three—a father, his college freshman son and me. We ate chicken, rice, chayote and fat hand-made corn tortillas in the kitchen. The roof beams were just a bit above our heads. Women continued to flip tortillas over the fire as smoke drifted through the stick walls. Afterwards, we received gifts. Dried cornhusks folded and tied into tiny pouches. Inside each was an egg laid by the family's hens. I'd never seen that before—individually gift-wrapped eggs. I leave it to you to consider the meaning. I simply wish to tell the events of that memorable day, and share a short prayer. ***Lord, thank you for unexpected moments. Times when we can be aware of your presence, perhaps hide our tears from those around us, and accept your grace. Thanks for working through us—a partnership of unlikely characters—for another year. If it is your will, help us continue to serve on your behalf. Amen.*** Thanks. Todd Luke

(The mission at Xpujil is still hard at work serving the folks and Todd is still vitally involved.)

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION for January through March, 2012

Beginning Sunday, January 29th, adults will enjoy a study of the book **Love Wins** by Rob Bell. Copies of the book will be available on Jan. 22nd for purchase at \$12.00 a copy. This study will continue for eight weeks and end on March 18th.

Betty Favorite, Christian Education Elder

Leader Dogs for the Blind Future Leader Dog Bella is in Phase Three training at Leader Dog University, Rochester Michigan. Bella will complete a Four Phase Training Process to become a Leader Dog. Each phase consist of four weeks. Bella has been a busy Pup! Pre - Basic, Bella completed her medical examinations, X - Rays, vaccinations, bath, refresher course in basic obedience. Volunteers walked, played, and groomed Bella until she began work with her Trainer. Phase One starts formal training. Bella beinging wearing a harness, working on quiet streets and learning basic commands. Phase Two - Dogs are neutered or spayed. Training is suspended while the Dog recovers. Trainers use this time to visit Graduates of Leader Dog and interview prospective clients. Dog Training continues in Phase Two with the addition of more commands and complex situations. In Phase Three Bella will learn to navigate country and large urban areas. Phase Four is the most difficult phase of training. Bella will master complex situations, moving cars, busy streets and difficult obstacles. During the last week of Advanced Two Training, things wind down for the Dogs. They come back to quiet residential areas of Rochester, Michigan in preparation for where they will begin work with their blind partner. The First Year of Life for a Future Leader Dog is very important. Bella, Cheryl and I thank you for being a part of Bella's life. Your time, understanding, love and attention helped Bella to return to Leader Dogs as a well socialized, confident Future Leader Dog. Bella is doing well and is on track. We will keep you updated on Bella's progress.

Bella, Cheryl, Bob Sloan

Walk a mile in her shoes.



Winter Walk by the numbers

2011
 501 Walkers
 \$56,000
 Temperature: 37 degrees and rain

About Winter Walk

Winter Walk is a one mile walk to benefit St. Margaret's House. Consciously scheduled in the middle of winter, the community joins together to walk with women or children whose everyday means of transportation is their feet.

75% of the women and children that utilize the services of St. Margaret's House walk or take a bus to recieve service. Regardless of weather, sun, rain snow or sleet, their feet are their main method of transportaion.

Winter Walk is a walk of solidarity in support of these women.

Winter Walk 2012
 Sunday, February 19
 2:30pm

Proceeds from Winter Walk will enable St. Margaret's House to continue to be a haven of hospitality and of life changing support and service for women and children in need within our community.



Winter Walk

DEACONS' CHRISTMAS SHOPPING PROJECT – A SNAPSHOT

The time is 8:00 am on Saturday, December 10, 2011. A growing group of adults gathers in anticipation of a wonderful Christmas event. Within a few minutes, the catalog department of J. C. Penney's at the UP mall fills with FPC deacons, pastor and members, parents and social workers from Mishawaka public schools, the store manager and a handful of clerks. It's not a promotional event, not a flash mob, not a lottery drawing, not a chance to sit on Santa's lap. No, it's an annual celebration, quiet and very real, of the meaning of Christmas. For the next few hours, in the name of the Christ Child, Children of God will shop with other Children of God for the good of young children in Mishawaka. People outside our church membership will be brought close to us and invited to upcoming worship services. Christmas hopes and dreams will come closer to fulfillment, and faith will be strengthened or even restored. Actions will speak much louder than words. Hands and feet of some will carry forward the monetary gifts and love of others. The Kingdom of God will advance. God will be glorified - - and pleased!

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Below are the words of a school social worker, addressed to our church family, in a note after the event.

*“ On behalf of all the families you so generously served, we would like to thank you! Twenty-six parents were able to shop for warm boots, shoes and clothing for sixty-five children in need. Your generosity is overwhelming. Thank you for the kind, loving manner in which you treated our parents! May you be blessed beyond measure for your kindness and efforts.”*  
*(from the social workers and principals of Mishawaka public schools)*

**THE PROBLEM WITH DEADLINES - a missional journey report**

It does not happen often. But it did this time.

This is being written about an event that has not happened yet.

But it will have happened when it is being read.

Deadline 1/17    Event 1/22    Read 1/30

The Conference on the Future, held after the congregational meeting on the 22nd, was designed to give those who attend the opportunity to imagine, share, and help determine FPC's future. As in the previous conferences and meetings, the more who were involved, the more meaningful the outcome. To have had a third or more of the congregation participate would have been good.

At the Conference on the Future consideration was given to the four key areas as determined by the elected board members: First Presbyterian Church in Mishawaka should be a community of God-centered worship; Christian witness; learning; and caring. At the conclusion of the conference the attendees indicated (without commitment) the area or areas they were most interested in. Using this information and referring to the Guiding Vision, goals will be written for the congregation to strive to meet in the next 3 to 5 years. This will be done by elected officers in February or March.

Input of the congregation has been vital to the outcome of the journey and much appreciated. We are still not sure what that outcome will be. But we are getting closer to it. We - and the Holy Spirit - must continue to exhibit patience.

Alan Camren, chair  
 Missional Journey Coordinating Team