



First Presbyterian News

October 2011

Consecration Sunday is Coming!

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship.

New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, October 16, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader, the Rev. Jan Van Lear, will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Stewardship Committee Co-Chairpersons,
Brent Davis and Ron May

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

Sunday School Classes begin at 10:45 am.

The church office will be open from 10 am to noon and 1 pm to 3 pm Monday thru Friday.

***Lectionary for Sundays
Scripture Reference***

October 2 (27th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19:1-14
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 9 (28th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 16 (29th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99:1-9
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 23 (30th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

October 30 (31st Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

I wanted to let you all know that the surgery went well and I am at home. Now comes the physical therapy- three times a week. Keep me in your prayers as I relearn to walk, skip and jump. My best, Beth Davis.

When you carry the Bible, Satan gets a headache...
When you open it, he collapses...
When he see you reading it, he faints...
When he sees you living what you read, he flees...

***October Birthdays:
Jacob Prince 2nd***

A special THANK YOU!

*I would like to extend a special thanks to all of those who gave of their time and talents as our church hosted a funeral service for Traisean Rhodes of Battell School. To Vicky Garrett and Jim Pickley who gave of their musical talents. To the women of PW and of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and the teachers of Battell School who provided food, set up, serving, and cleanup. To the members who helped guide, direct, greet and usher inside our building as well as outside. To the FPC staff, Pastor Mary Ann Banning and Reverend Susan Haynes who officiated the service and attended spiritually to the Rhodes family. I am blessed to be part of this church community that comes together for those in their time of need.
Nora Wiseman, Chair of Worship and Music,
Co-Moderator of Presbyterian Women*

Thank you to all of you for your prayers and cards during my recent surgery and recovery. The arm is healing nicely and physical therapy is helping return it to use after what turned out to be a fairly severe injury. By the time you see this you will hopefully already have seen me up front with the bell choir, and I hope to be ready to play again by the time Priscilla needs an organ sub! Thank you again for your prayers and concern. - Mareta Hershberger

The Family of Elizabeth Rexson would like to Thank our church family for the love, prayers, support, food, cards and hugs that held us up during Mom's illness and her funeral. Mom loved First Presbyterian Church and her church family. We loved hearing your stories of Mom. What a blessing you have been to us. Lynett and John Heritz, Shirley Kendall and Families.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>		<u>Acolyte</u>	
October 2	Ethan DeMaegd	Bob Sloan	Dick Dentino	Communion
October 9	Carole Polk	Bill Bellairs	Neil Seufert	Roger Deloof
October 16	Michael Green	Jack Bruner	Jeff Wiseman	Mikey Green
October 23	Dan Bruner	Dave Tschida	Justin Tschida	Shayna Frick
October 30	Nora Wiseman	Jim Bonham	Esther Morrison	Chris Krafft

M I S S I O N N O T E S F R O M :

Rev. Mary Ann Banning Mary Ann Dentino Claudia Riggs
 Janet Freeman Betty Johnson Anna Bowers

MISSION MUSINGS



GOOD TO KNOW: Have you ever wondered what happens to the Christmas tree after it is displayed at New York City’s Rockefeller Center? The tree for 2010 was milled into lumber and used in a home built by Habitat for Humanity! Parts of the tree that couldn’t be turned into lumber have been used to make special paper for book plates. The home that was built is located near the community where the tree grew. It is encouraging to learn of yet another praiseworthy plan from Habitat.

A HARVEST OF JUSTICE: Along with World Communion Sunday, October 2, we also celebrate World Peace with our annual Peacemaking Offering. On our Mission Bulletin Board is a commemorative poster illustrating our theme: “A harvest of justice is sown in peace”—James 3:18. We Christians long for a more just and peaceful world—where the worth of every person is valued, where greed no longer rules and hunger no longer results, where bullets and bombs no longer devastate. The “harvest of justice” and righteousness will be sown by peacemakers, planted and nurtured in words and deeds of peace. We will be giving 25% of our offering to a local group. This year it will be given to Michiana Youth Ministries, in which some of First Presbyterian Church youth and young adults are or have been involved. Thank you for your help, always. Mission Committee



Peacemaking Offering

NEWS FROM THE MAC

FPC received an acknowledgement from the School City of Mishawaka for its participation in the "Pack-A-Backpack project. Many thanks to all for the backpacks and school supplies. These donations helped families prepare children for the new school year.

Warren Kirkwood, director of the Albright Food Pantry, shared some disturbing statistics at the September MAC meeting. There has been an increase in the number of clients over the age of 60 now coming to the Panty for food. There are many factors, one significant being the increased cost of medical care. A positive factor, however, is that the number of new families using the Pantry has not increased.

It is noted that most of the items made available to folks are given through churches and other group organizations, as well as individuals. This also includes money donations. The Food Bank of Northern Indiana has suggested dropping federal food commodities due to its insistence on certain restrictions and distribution. The rationale behind this suggestion is that individual food pantries are more in touch with the clients they service.

A widely-used charitable food distribution company will discontinue operating in this area due to the cutback in funds, as well as donated food. This will certainly affect our community.

A group has been formed within the community to study ways to avoid duplication of basic services, thereby, using available resources more efficiently.

Each week the grocery cart in the CE Lobby is filled with a variety of food..sometimes on both shelves. Through the efforts of long-time church member, Dick Badry, the cart is emptied and items are delivered to the Food Pantry. Sadly, Dick, isn't able to continue volunteering. Most often the food is delivered on Monday mornings; however, any day the Albright Church office is open, deliveries can be made. Others are stepping up to help with this long-time project of FPC. A list of volunteers, similar to Sunday morning greeters and hosts for Fellowship, is being put together.

Once again, First Presbyterian Church, a MAC church, answers the call.

Worship & Music

October Schedule:

October 2	World Communion
October 9	Stewardship Sunday
October 16	New Consecration Sunday – 2012 Pledges will be received
October 23	Congregational Election
October 30	All Saints Day Observance – all those who have gone to be with our Lord in the past year will be remembered.

Disciples TreeHouse,
on October 2nd, World Communion Sunday
the children will be staying in worship to observe.

First Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School: October is busy with trips, going to the Douglas Road Fire Station to see Little Red, and to the Pumpkin Patch. Apples and making applesauce, pumpkins and pumpkin pie, fall colors and leaves falling will fill out the month. **October 14th is Buddy Night** for the 4 and 5 year olds, when they invite their buddy to come to school in the evening. Bring a box! The two some work to create fun and great art projects.

The Scrapbook Club will be having its annual CROPTOBERFEST. This two day event includes a gift for coming, make-n-takes, and lots of time to work on your latest projects. I also have the newest catalog. I am excited to share all the NEW things with you. Please RSVP by Thursday, Oct. 13th. I hope to have you join me in the Fellowship Hall on

Friday, October 14th from 6 pm to 11 pm for \$5 - drinks and a light snack will be provided and/or

Saturday, October 15th from 9 am to 4 pm for \$15 - pizza and drinks will be provided

I want to leave you with a poem (author unknown)...

As you have a few moments
Maybe watching some TV
Please give us a gift
That's as priceless as can be.

Don't let the story behind each one
Get lost with out a clue
"Who is this?" Where is that?
We'll wish we only knew."

Get out old photos
And jot down on their backs;
Who, What, Where, When,
And any important facts

Please use this special pencil;
It is as safe as safe can be.
An heirloom you will make of each
For our families history.

Blessings to you all, Brittany

Book Club will be meeting on October 16th, at 4 pm. Jean Bruner will host and the discussion leader will be Dyan Phillips. The book of the month is Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen. If you have already read this great, join us, and if you saw the movie only, great, join us. All views add to the enjoyment of the discussion. Any questions please call me, Beth.

**Next Newsletter deadline is
October 17 at noon.**

Mail information to church or email Sue at fpcnewseditor@fpcmishawaka.org or Church Secretary Kathy at kathy@fpcmishawaka.org. Thank you.

Needed: trunks with treats in them! Saturday, October 29th is Trunk or Treat. (6:30 pm –7:30 pm.) Last year we had a record number of kids, it was a fun night of outreach to the neighborhood. You don't need to decorate your trunk (although it is appreciated) nor do you need a car– feel free to bring a chair and bag of candy. Please arrive by 6:15 p.m. in the east parking lot so we can be ready to go before 6:30 p.m. If weather is bad, we will move inside. It's a great event to invite neighbors and/or friends, too.

News of Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian

October 26th –Mission Dedication Sunday & Thank Offering Collection

The **Thank Offering** began in 1888 by Eliza Clokey who encouraged women to give one dollar above and beyond her pledge as a “thank offering to her Lord.” The impact of this of this idea was immeasurable. 123 years later this Offering continues to impact the world and is an important part of giving by Presbyterian Women. Last year over half million dollars was collected and distributed to over 13 projects in the US and 15 overseas. At least 40% of the offering is designated for health ministries.

In addition to the offering, we will be dedicating the many local and overseas **mission projects** our women have been working on the last year.

Presbyterian Women’s Fall Retreat –Nov. 4-5 @ Geneva Center

Theme: “In Step with God, Never Walk Alone.” Cost is 71.00 (double room) – See Carole or bulletin board for flyer and registration form.

The **Bake/Craft Sale** is coming... Make sure that you all mark your calendars for December 3 and the annual Presbyterian Women's Bake Sale. What a great way to get a jump on your Holiday baking! There will be a *Cookie Walk* again this year along with all the regular goodies....cheesecakes, homemade noodles, cheese balls, Charlie's hard candy, soup mixes and much more. So make sure that you stop by from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, December 3.

Sunday School Classes, the Children’s and Youth program will continue with current program for the next few months with classes beginning at 10:45.

The Adult program will start the first of October with some short film and discussion classes. These films will help to *explore your faith and relationships*. Pastor Mary Ann will lead, with classes going thru until the end of November.

Betty Favorite, Christian Education Elder

The **Cake Walk** (with a twist) that took place at the annual church picnic brought in \$266.00 towards the Deacon's Children's Christmas Shopping. We thank everyone who participated in the event and hope that you enjoyed all the yummy baked goods that went home with you. Those extra calories went towards a great cause.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

Our denomination defines Christian stewardship as “**the responsive practice of Christians making proper use of the gifts God has given them for the sake of God’s work in the world.**”

Stewards recognize that “**the earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it.**” (Ps. 24: 1-2)

Stewards understand that, while they are given a great deal of freedom, **they are not autonomous**. God will review their work. Just as the potter molds the clay (Jeremiah 18: 1-13), so the Lord of Creation shapes the life of the steward.

Stewards **are not just caretakers**. They are to hand on their work with improvements. Stewards will be creative and productive with the resources they have.

Stewards are not beneficiaries – **others are**. Stewards do not give because they happen to have enough to give.

Stewards have received what they have for the very purpose of giving it away.

Stewards are to use and build on the gifts given in a way that reflects the character and purposes of God.

While, as stewards we cannot redeem the earth, we can begin its restoration by giving ourselves to it as Christ gives himself to us. We hope for the satisfaction of the world’s longing to be reconciled to God and to be a part of God’s design. We hope that the groaning of our world could be transformed into singing!

The PRAYER PAGE
“Make Me an Instrument”

~ prepared by Susan May ~

The most beloved prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi is filled with requests for himself: **“make me”** - - **“let me”** - - **“grant me.”** But look again. Everything he wants from God is for helping others, in order to serve Christ. He asks for blessings just to give them away! I know this prayer by heart and often pray it when I am confounded by a situation with no clue about how to pray or what I should do (or not do.) It’s also great when no particular need is present - simply to connect with God’s will and call. It applies to everything from the slightest, immediate inner conflict to the whole universe throughout infinity. If you pray between the lines, making it “yours,” it becomes brand new every time.
Your day will fill with purpose.... Your heart will bloom with peace.

+ + +

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. *Where is the hatred in the world? among my family and friends? within my own relationships? I will sow love there, through prayer and action, planting seeds of God’s peace on earth.*

Where there is injury, pardon; *Do I need to pardon someone or let go of a hurt? Is there something I can do to facilitate healing and forgiveness for others or a situation? Do I need to confess or apologize? Help me do it, God, today.*

Where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; *I know it’s true, but sometimes I ignore it. All around me, every day, many feel doubt and despair! God, who do you want me to help? How? Please show me.*

Where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. *Who needs my smile or my comfort, my thanks, guidance, cheering phone call or helping hand? God, my priorities will include looking for chances to spread light.*

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen



The Power of Music

There are two Old Testament stories about music of which I am particularly fond. One is found in 2 Kings 3. The Israelites had been marching against the King of Moab and had run out of water, with none to be found. They called for the prophet Elisha and asked him to intervene. Elisha’s first order was “Get me a musician.” The story goes on to tell us that when the musician played, the power of the Lord came on Elisha. (It appears that no one was surprised by any of this.) Water was then forthcoming.

The second story is in 2 Chronicles 5. At the dedication of the temple, the priests had just placed the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies. When they came out, we are told that “all the levitical singers and [their families]...with cymbals, harps and lyres, stood east of the altar with one hundred twenty priests, who were trumpeters.” It was their duty to “make themselves heard in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord.” And when they did so, the temple was filled with the glory of the Lord, evidenced by a cloud so dense the priests could not stand to minister.

In the worship of God, music can often do what the spoken word cannot. It invokes both God’s power and God’s glory. It touches and moves us ways speaking is unable to do. And in doing so it writes God’s message on our hearts and minds in ways that help us to remember.

~Maretta Hershberger