



The Presby Bulletin

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
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February 2010

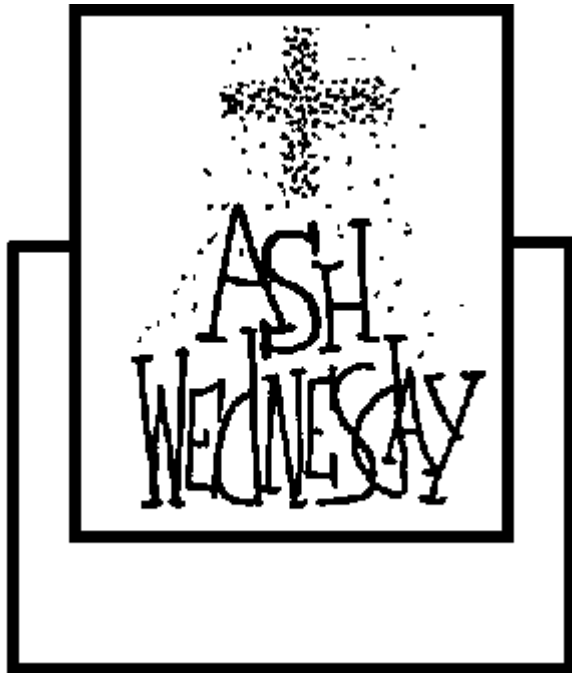


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A Word from your Pastor...

Taking a Rest

I have never been very good at resting. In fact, I must admit that I find resting to be something almost against my nature. Sleeping is OK, and I get plenty of that, but resting during the day?? I don't think so. My general pattern is to go as fast as I can and then drop into bed.

It came as a surprise to me that God rested. God actually set aside one whole day in seven to rest. The creation story has resting as its climax. Everything builds up to the moment when God rested.

Since we are formed in the image of God, I have to believe (although reluctantly) that rest is an absolute vital part of our nature. This time of year reminds me of it, too. Christmas is over, snow still sits quietly on the ground, nothing seems to be happening in the world outside. But *nothing* is actually a very important *something*. All of creation is resting. Getting ready for the burst of energy that is necessary for spring to come.

In the relentless busyness of modern life, we have lost the rhythm between work and rest. All life requires a rhythm of activity rest. We wake and we sleep. Day dissolves into night, night into morning. Active growth is followed by dormancy. Even our heart rests after each life-giving beat; our lungs rest between the exhale and the inhale.

Action and accomplishment are not all there is. They are not better than rest. When we refuse to rest, we stubbornly hold on to our lives, believing that "we can do it," "we don't need help," or at its worst, "we don't need God."

I encourage you to pay attention in the coming weeks of Lent to your need for rest. Sometimes it comes in physical ways...a sleepiness or sense of distraction. Sometimes it comes in emotional ways...a crankiness or numbness. When you sense your need for rest, take note. If you can't take a few moments to just breathe and be...remember. You still need rest and it is important to find a restful space for yourself.

God rested on the seventh day. If God needed to rest, how much more do we?

Pastor Karen



FAMILY CARE

Congratulations to Lisa Helgerson who graduated from Eastern Illinois University on December 19th with a Bachelor's Degree in Education.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who face health issues:

Arlene Ahlman
Ruth Barkby
Faye Dickerson, David Miller's cousin
Gary Leaver
Lois Lindoerfer
Marge McDonough

Let us also continue to remember the following:

- Marian Barcalow
- Bill and Betty Clark
- Arleen Applehoff
- Kennard Manchester
- June & Arnie Huske
- Marjorie Johnson

PRAYER FAMILIES

AS Presbyterians we certainly believe in the power of prayer, not only during times of trouble or joy, but every day! Here are the names of church families to include in your daily prayers for the following weeks:

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1st:

Janet Robinson
Glenn & Cynthia Roth; Mitchell
Ken & Luann Runyan; Andra; Kimbra
Mark & Leann Runyan
Walter & Rosemary Runyan

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7th:

Dr. Stuart Ryder
Todd & Dawn Schmied
Marvel Schmitt
Art & Nancy Schueneman; Alayna
Charles Sendecke; Jordon

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14th:

James Severson
Tim & Cathy Sheahan; Katie, T. J.
Mike & Sarah Sitter; Ryan, Jackson
Lora Smith
Elwood & Pamela Stack; Steven

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21st:

Roger & Carol Steffan
Marie Sullivan
Ron & Shirley Swain
Sue Taylor; Kyle, Danny



THANK YOU

Dear Friends at Presbyterian Church,

Thank you all very much for your constant prayers throughout my 6 day stay at Sherman Hospital. I also want to thank those who sent my family and me "get well" cards while continuing my road to recovery. Your concern and prayers helped me keep a positive attitude.

Thank you all very much,

Andra Runyan

P.S. I begin student teaching at Pontiac HS this February 1st, 2010, so I believe the Lord has helped me fix this heart problem just in the nick of time.

I want to thank everyone for their cards, concerns and prayers while I was in the hospital. A special thanks to my deacon, Nancy and Karen who were there all the way thru my long hospital stay.

*Love,
Lois Lindoerfer*

Thank You, Thank You!!

During Advent and Christmas we collected and distributed the following:
24 White Gifts for children in U-46 Project Access Program
3 bags of Toys for the Toy Giveaway
6 Jr. High's shopped and 15 youth and adults volunteered for the Toy Giveaway
108 hats, mittens and gloves for children & teens at the Community Crisis Center,
Project Access and Lowrie Elementary School.

Church & Society Committee

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Many thanks to all who gave to the Christmas "Food For Kids" offering. We were able to send a check for \$822.00 to Gallup, New Mexico. Following is from the thank you note we received.

"Thank you for your most generous donation. With this large donation some families will have not only the food for the week-end but will have food over the next two weeks Christmas Break. Many will experience a special Christmas Dinner that was not a possibility before. May God Bless each of you and have a Great Holiday Season."

Thanks again for helping us carry on our Christmas Offering Mission for children.

COMMITTEE NEWS

OUTREACH & MEMBERSHIP

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS: In the coming months there will be articles in the Presby introducing the eleven new members who joined our church this past year (August 2, 2009). Included today are two of them:

Kori Dicken has to be one of the busiest new members in our church. Kori and her husband, Ryan, himself a child of this church, have two little ones: Ethan and Emilee. We welcome Kori and Ryan not only for themselves and their faith commitment but also for the promise of the future with these little ones among us.

Kori shares with Chuck Koehler a childhood in St. John's Lutheran Church, formerly in downtown Elgin. While a member there she taught Kindergarten and third and fourth grade students for over 6 years.

Growing up in Algonquin, Kori graduated from Jacobs High School, Elgin Community College, Northern Illinois University and St. Xavier. Her teaching skills became her career choice; she is now a teacher of 7th grade students in Language Arts at Big Hollow Middle School in Ingleside.

Kori admits that her leisure time includes playing with her kids, "sappy girl shows on television" and reading. We're guessing that having ANY time for herself is difficult right now.

Ryan's family has a long history in this church and when Kori and Ryan were looking for a church they found that at First Presbyterian "Everyone was welcoming" (even though some of us didn't recognize Ryan as the little boy who was Linda's son, Roger's nephew and Gordie and Ruth Steffan's grandson.) They came looking for a congregation "that was open to everyone" and "for a good youth program". For her part, Kori has already committed herself to being involved in the youth program in the future.

Kori, Ryan, Ethan and Emilee, we are blessed by your presence among us.

Ralph Maguire came regularly to our church before he joined, even going with the Mission Team from our church this past April to help rebuild after Hurricane Katrina.

Ralph grew up in Chicago and graduated from high school in Oak Lawn. He has a brother and two sisters. Ralph was married for 39 years and though the Presbyterian church in which he and his first wife were members was very present when she was dying, after a time he dropped out.

He has two adult children living in the area: a 35 year old son in West Dundee and a daughter, Carolyn, 38.

Ralph's mother was an organist in a Presbyterian church in the Chicago area for 30 years and when asked if his mother were ever free to sit with him in church his response was, "Yes, sometimes I sat with her on the organ bench when she played." There was lots of music in his home when he was growing up, Ralph said, and he enjoys playing the guitar, usually 'older' rock and dance music.

Ralph is an electrical engineer, having taken his training at the Morraine Valley community college. His favorite activities are computers and traveling.

When asked what caused him to come back to the Presbyterian church when he began looking again for a church, he said it was 'in his bones'. He said that Rev. Karen's sermons were also a big factor!

Ralph said he also came back to church because he missed the fellowship; he is hopeful of finding a group within the church that will fill that need. When asked if he would be willing to join a covenant group, which typically meets two nights a month, he said yes without hesitating.

We are grateful for your witness among us, Ralph, and want very much to help you find that fellowship you are hoping for.

CHURCH & SOCIETY

In place of sending Christmas toys to Nicaragua, we now have a Nicaraguan Mission Fund. This fund provides scholarships for 8 students to attend high school for one year, and it provides money for the lunch program for school children in Chacreseca, Nicaragua. In 2009, the lunch program had to be limited to feeding the children only 2 or 3 days a week because of failed crops caused by severe drought and a 50% decrease in donations due to the global financial crisis. For many Nicaraguan children, this school lunch is their only meal of the day. In 2009, this program served 1500 school children. This year, they are hoping to serve 1700 school children; but presently, the outlook looks bleak. In mid Dec., we received a thank you letter for the \$200.00 donation that we made to the lunch program for this past year. The following is an excerpt from this thank you letter:

"As we begin the New Year, we have no funds to count on for food, and so we don't know what 2010 holds for us. However, we know Who holds the future, and we place our trust in God. Sister Elizabeth Salmon, (former Maryknoll Nicaraguan missionary with Sister Joan), continues to be our inspiration and rock as she guides us through our daily decisions and difficulties. We know you will do everything possible to help make meals available to the children of Nicaragua for 2010. Whether that gift is \$5.00 or \$2,500.00, we are always touched and moved by the sacrifices people make to feed hungry children."

During a special offering for the Nicaraguan Mission Fund in early Dec., our church members and friends donated \$2,230.00. Of that amount, \$960.00 went to sponsor 8 high school students, and the remaining \$1,270.00 was sent to support Chacreseca's School Lunch Program. Our congregation is awesome! C.&S. wants to thank you for all you do for our many mission projects, and to let you know that, at any time, you can continue to donate to the Nicaraguan Mission Fund. Then, we will forward the money to the lunch program periodically. Make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and write "Nicaraguan Lunch Program" in the notation.

Also, check "Special Offering" on the outside of the envelope. Last, but not least, our annual Spanish Book Drive for the Nicaraguan Schools will be held earlier this year so that the books can be shipped in a Quest For Peace container leaving for Nicaragua from Connecticut in May. The dates for this sale will be Feb. 21st and Feb. 28th in the parlor following worship. Thanks again for your continuing commitment to mission.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH CAREGIVER OF THE MONTH

The youth caregiver for the month of February is Sophie Young. Sophie is 11 years old and is in the 5th grade at Highland School in Elgin. Her interests at school include band where she plays the clarinet, the recorder club and school plays. Away from school Sophie plays soccer and softball. She has also been involved with our summer music camp for several years and this is the first year that she has helped in our church nursery. Thanks for your help.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The following activities have been added to the calendar for youth in the month of February:

February 20 (Saturday) Junior and senior high youth will go into Chicago to see the Chicago lights. This is in conjunction with Epiphany.

SUNDAY LENTEN STUDY

There will be an adult nursery caregiver available for the 9:15 A.M. Lenten Study beginning February 28.

Ellen Vogel

January's Volunteers

- Lowell Koester
- Dave & Jan Miller
- Lois McDonough
- Doreen Hendricks

Thank You!



Taking Up Chocolate For Lent

Join us for a unique Lenten journey this year.

We will reflect on the themes of the movie “Chocolat” as we delve into its delicious depths of humanity and grace.

Our study will include Scripture readings, viewing of film clips, discussion, and yes – eating chocolate!

We will meet 5 consecutive Sundays and 5 consecutive Wednesdays during Lent. Please try to view the film before attending (see the article below). Copies are in the office too.

Wednesdays 6:00 PM

March 3
March 10
March 17
March 24
March 31

Sundays 9:15 AM

February 28
March 7
March 14
March 21
March 28

Materials will be made available. Please sign up in the office or during coffee hour.

Women and Chocolate – A Perfect Combination

All women are cordially invited to view the film, Chocolat, starring Juliette Binoche, Judi Dench and Johnny Depp on Sunday, February 21, 2010, from 5:00 – 7:00 PM in the parlor of First Presbyterian Church. This event will be hosted by the Women’s Passionate Spirituality Group. Both popcorn and chocolate will be served. YUM! This critically acclaimed movie offers all of us the opportunity to imagine anew our ideas of redemption. (And, it has comedic moments!) Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship even if you do not plan to participate in the Lenten study based on this Academy Award nominated picture. We would appreciate it if you would sign your name to the sheet in the back hallway if you plan to attend. We’ll save you a seat!

KAIROS FAMILY CENTER RAFFLE

Sunday, February 7, 2010 Noon

1. \$500 Gift Card
2. Mystery Entertainment Package (\$250 Value)
3. 2 Elgin Symphony Tickets – Beethoven 7
4. \$50 Gift Card
5. \$25 Gift Card

Tickets available for purchase that day in the parlor. \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10. Winner need not be present.

2010 BLACKHAWKW PRESBYTERY PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT

In Blackhawk Presbytery’s Administrative Budget for 2010, approved at the November 10 meeting of the presbytery, Per Capita is assessed at \$34.64 per communicant member. \$24.89 goes to the work of Blackhawk Presbytery, \$3.60 to the work of the Synod of Lincoln Trails and \$6.15 to the work of the General Assembly of the Presbytery Church (U.S.A.)

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