



The Presby Bulletin

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May 2010



RECONCILIATION

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A Word from your Pastor...

Not for Sissies

Racism. It's an ugly word. South Africa has seen the dark underbelly of racism during much of my lifetime. Out of that struggle has emerged one of my modern day heroes: Desmond Tutu. A few weeks ago, he was mentioned in an article in the Daily Herald.

Desmond Tutu is the retired Archbishop of the Anglican Church. He and Nelson Mandela presided over the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a tribunal established after the rule of Apartheid to settle disputes and address racist acts that had occurred under that regime. Their work was a breakthrough in understanding both racism and the need for forgiveness. A book titled, "No Future without Forgiveness," describes their work.

But racism persists in South Africa. Recently, a black leader was appointed to the University of the Free State, which has never appointed a black leader in its 106 year history. That leader, Jonathan Jansen, has created a stir with black leaders in South Africa because he decided to drop a criminal case against 4 white students accused of making 4 black janitors eat a stew apparently spiked with urine. Jansen even offered 2 of the white students the chance to resume their studies. Black leaders were horrified.

Jansen insisted that racism could not be resolved in the courts. "Where should they go?" he asked. "We don't have a camp or university for racists. Bring them back; let them learn to live with others." Retired Archbishop Tutu agreed and added, "Revenge and retribution are easy. Forgiveness is not for sissies."

Indeed. Jesus understood this. His forgiveness of sinners, during his entire ministry and even on the cross and beyond, stands in stark relief to the surrounding territory of the aggression, fear and hate in his day.

Is our day much different? I learned long ago that although forgiveness might be the very last option I wish to pursue, it is the only one that can restore my heart to wholeness. But what is forgiveness? Is it forgetting? Is it accepting what happened? Is it absolving from punishment?

No. Forgiveness is something entirely different, something in a world of its own. As I began to consider possible adult education or retreat opportunities for the coming year, the topic of forgiveness came to mind. There is much to explore in the world of forgiveness, and it is best explored in a group setting where both discussion and education are included. If you are interested in this topic, drop me a line or give the office a call. I would enjoy sharing what I continue to learn about it, and I would greatly enjoy hearing what your experience has taught you.

Forgiveness isn't for sissies. Even talking about it isn't easy. But talking about it is a start.

Pastor Karen

THANK YOU!!

Dear First Presbyterian Church members,

Thank you for your donation from your Loose Coin Offering. Your support provides essential services to individuals and families in crisis.

This past year had been most challenging due to drastic cuts in funding from the government. The Community Crisis Center has weathered difficult times before and is committed to doing so again. We are grateful for the support we have received; it does "bring peace for today" and allows us to "create a vision for tomorrow". We are indeed fortunate to have individuals, organizations and businesses as partners in working to make a difference in the lives of others.

Thank you so much. Your ongoing partnership is an inspiration to all of us and to the people we serve!

*Peace,
Gretchen S. Vapnar
Executive Director*

{FYI, For those of you who might not know, First Presbyterian Church collects loose coins every Sunday and forwards them at the end of the month to the Crisis Center in Elgin. These funds have been used for a variety of things, but most especially to help provide transportation to individuals where there is a need.}

Our thanks go out to **Russ Buckardt** for transporting 444 Health Kits to the Church of the Brethren to be sent to aid those in need in Haiti. First Presbyterian Church was the drop off point for kits put together by members of Blackhawk Presbytery.

Dear Friends,

I want to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, meals, goodies, and well wishes after my recent surgery. I am doing well and expect a complete recovery soon. I am so grateful to be part of such a loving and supportive church family!

Sincerely,

Debby Walters

Thank you to April's Meals on Wheels helpers

Bob Hill & Jill Lundstrom

Bob & Sally Hoffman

COMMITTEE NEWS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday, May 9th, will be Youth Sunday. Please join us on Mother's Day as all of our youth lead us in worship. We will also honor our youth nursery caregivers.

LAST SUNDAY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

The last day for Youth Sunday School this year will be May 23rd. Our senior highs will go to the Colonial for breakfast and everyone else will go to the park for fun and snacks. Also on May 16th we will honor our teachers, librarians and nursery caregiver during our worship service.

GRADUATES

If anyone in your family is graduating from high school, college or are getting an advanced degree; please call the church office by May 18th so that we may print your name, school, the degree and your plans following graduation in our June Presby.

SUMMER NURSERY

We are looking for people to help in our nursery this summer. Our current adult caregiver will be in there, but we would like to have one other person helping each Sunday as well, since our youth are not assigned over the summer. If you could help for a Sunday, it would be appreciated. We would welcome any youth 5th grade or older, moms, dads, grandparents or any member of the congregation. There is a sign-up list on the nursery door and we would ask that you try and be in the nursery by 9:20 A.M. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

STRONGHOLD

Stronghold Summer Camps are a place set apart for people of all walks to come and join in the fellowship of a Christian Community. There are camps for kindergarteners through high school, GrandCamps for grandparents and their grandchildren ages 5 – 12, and new this year is a

STRONGHOLD(cont.)

Family Camp. The Family Camp takes place July 2 -4 and is for parents, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins and includes games, crafts, swimming, campfires, and fellowship. You can stay in a retreat building or take a tent and stay on the campground. The fees include lodging, food, activities and programs. There are no charges for infants and toddlers and childcare is provided. For further information or a brochure, please contact Ellen Vogel. Our church has scholarships available for youth and the deadline to apply is June 1st.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The following activities have been added to the calendar for youth during the month of May:

May 9 – Mothers Day and Youth Sunday

May 16 – Senior High Cookout (see below) and movie for youth. Recognition of Christian Educators during worship

May 23 – Senior Highs to Colonial, Pre-school – junior high to the park

LOOKING AHEAD:

June 14 – 18 MUSIC CAMP (more information coming soon, mark your calendars!)

SENIOR HIGH COOKOUT

May 16, 2010

Please come and help support our Senior Highs. All proceeds from the cookout will go towards this summers' mission trip to Waynesburg, PA.

Adult Tickets \$5.50
Child/Senior \$4.50

THANK YOU!!!

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Nicaraguan Mission Fund

We hope everyone has had a chance to read the letter from Sister Elizabeth concerning our Church's contribution to the school lunch program in Nicaragua. Often this meal is the only nutritious meal these school children receive during the day. Our donations, no matter how small, do make a difference in the lives of these children. We are once again relying on the generosity of this congregation and asking for donations for this worthy global mission project. We will have donation baskets at the sanctuary doors after church service on **June 6th** to receive your monetary gifts.

Thank you - Church & Society Committee

2010 OFFERING OF LETTERS

On Sunday, **May 2nd** members and friends of First Presbyterian will be invited to write letters to their senators and representatives urging Congress to strengthen key tax credits that can make a big difference for low-income workers and their families. Sample letters, address labels and envelopes will be available for this Offering of Letters Campaign sponsored by Bread For The World. Our letters have been a positive influence in the past and will make a difference for poor people. These letters will be dedicated on Sunday, **May 9th** during worship. Church & Society Committee invites you to participate in this special offering of letters.

INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

Good News!

Plans are in the works to redo the pot hole ridden parking lot in the back of the church. Funding will come from several sources, including a fundraising campaign. The I & S committee is proposing that a portion of the funding be borrowed from the church's Endowment Fund, to be paid back in a timely manner. In accordance with the Endowment Fund policy, session members will be available on **Sunday, May 16th after worship** to discuss these plans with the congregation and try to answer any questions and concerns they may have regarding the use of the Endowment Fund.

Thanks, and we look forward to your input.

Dave McDonough, I& S Committee

OUTREACH & MEMBERSHIP

First Presbyterian Welcomes New Members

Little did we know what a gift our church was getting when Carol and John Kirchner moved back to the Chicago area to be closer to their families. When they first looked for a Presbyterian church in town, they thought ours was a Hispanic church and they began attending the Westminster Presbyterian instead. They kept wondering about ours, though, and finally Carol emailed our church office, connected up with Ruth and Ruth's warm welcome plus having Ellen Vogel and her parents in their neighborhood did it - they've been coming to First Presbyterian ever since. "But our new pastor (Karen) was the catalyst in helping us choose to let go of the Sanford North Carolina Presbyterian church we loved and join here - last August," Carol said.

The Kirchners met when they both lived and worked in the Chicago suburbs. John was manager-in-chief and a regional manager of a trust company in Chicago and Carol clerked in the DuPage County offices. They had both been married before and between them they have six grown children. "The children have always been 'ours'; we didn't believe in the 'his' or 'hers' distinction," John said with a smile.

When they retired, they left their large family up here and moved to North Carolina, looking for good weather and a chance for John to play golf all year around. They had a number of happy years at a golf resort community called Carolina Trace until John had a heart attack in 1995 and open heart surgery in 2002. While he was in surgery, John suffered two strokes, and as he said, "That ended my golf life."

John and Carol returned to this area, propelled by the thought of being around family should they need help with their health concerns. But shortly after they returned one of their daughters-in-law died, leaving a husband and two young children, and Carol and John found themselves suddenly needed very much.

Then along came Sam, their great grandson, (who delights all of us when he comes to church) and John and Carol embarked on full time babysitting. Carol sees Sam as a great blessing to them, saying, "Sam gives us a reason to look forward, not backward." And Sam will soon be joined by a brother who will also be part of John and Carol's 'nursery'.

And what do Carol and John do in their 'spare time'? With 6 grown children, their spouses, fifteen grandchildren (with another on the way) and numerous great grandchildren, their family numbers around 30 when they get together. Gardening takes any of Carol's spare time as do trips with her 'sisters': 2 of her own and 2 adopted into the group.

THINGS TO KNOW...

START SAVING YOUR "STUFF"

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THERE IS NOW A CHAIRPERSON FOR THE YARD SALE THIS SUMMER! NOW, WHAT **WE NEED ARE HELPERS**, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY **GREAT "STUFF"** TO SELL. PLEASE START PUTTING ASIDE YOUR TREASURES (AND ASK FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO DO THE SAME) AND WE WILL TELL YOU WHEN AND WHERE TO BRING THEM CLOSER TO THE EVENT.
THANK YOU!!

BLANKET SUNDAY(S)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN WILL BE COLLECTING AN OFFERING FOR BLANKET SUNDAY ON SUNDAYS MAY 9TH AND MAY 16TH FOLLOWING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE. \$5.00 WILL PURCHASE ONE BLANKET. IF WRITING A CHECK, PLEASE BE SURE TO MAKE IT PAYABLE TO "PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN".

THANK YOU FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN!

TYPEWRITER NEEDED

AS ARCHAIC AS IT MIGHT SEEM, THE CHURCH OFFICE IS IN NEED OF A TYPEWRITER IN ORDER TO PRODUCE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS THAT ARE KEPT ON FILE FOR POSTERITY. IF BY CHANCE YOU HAVE ONE IN GOOD WORKING ORDER AND WOULD CONSIDER DONATING IT TO THIS GOOD CAUSE IT WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED. JUST LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW AT 847-742-6365.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ASSISTANCE

MEMBERS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP IN THEIR SEARCH TO FILL OPEN POSITIONS ON BOTH SESSION AND DEACONS. MEMBERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ARE ASKED TO INFORM ANY NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THEIR INTEREST, OR MENTION THE NAMES OF POSSIBLE CANDIDATES THAT YOU FEEL WOULD BE WILLING TO SERVE IN THESE CAPACITIES. PLEASE GIVE IT PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION AND LET ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS KNOW: MARY BLACKWELL, KURT BUCKARDT, RUSS BUCKARDT, FRAN CHANNON, SHAWN LEAVER, SARAH MOOBERRY, KEELEY NAUMAN.



**WHEN: Saturday, MAY 15, 2010 at 11:30 AM
(Rain or shine)**

Why?

Although contemporary critter celebrations may appear novel, the tradition actually has a long past. Animal blessings are said to reach back to the 4th century. Animals have played important roles in the daily lives of humans.

God loves all creatures great and small.

What will happen?

A brief homily (5-10 minutes) will open the service. Owners will then be invited forward with their animals to receive a personal blessing, and receive a certificate with their pet's name, date, and the name of the church.

What else can I expect?

We will have the service on the front lawn, where there is shade. Animals should be on leashes or in transport devices. Water and a potty area will be provided. The event is expected to last 1 hour.

Why is our church sponsoring this event?

The blessing of the animals service is part of our outreach to the local community. This service is also part of our ministry to members of our congregation who have animals that are an important part of their lives.

