

# FIRST'S FAMILY



January 15-February 15  
2012  
Volume 56, Issue 1

## Kids Against Hunger®

Feeding families around the world...and around the corner.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Saturday, January 28 our church will again have the chance to be a part of this wonderful ministry. On that day we will be packing meals for Kids Against Hunger in our fellowship hall. This opportunity is possible through the support of FPC Presbyterian Women, FPC Mission Council, Eve Circle, and The Alternative Gift Giving. Packing meals for Kids Against Hunger is a great intergenerational activity ... talk to anyone who participated last year. Be sure you are a part of the packing this time around. If you would rather not pack, but wish to support the effort, we welcome monetary donations as well ... the more money we have, the more meals we can pack!

Kids Against Hunger packages highly nutritious, life-saving meals for starving and malnourished children and their families in developing countries and the United States. The goal of the organization is for its meals to provide a stable nutritional base from which recipient families can move their families from starvation to self-sufficiency. Kids Against Hunger accomplishes this by mobilizing the energy and caring of American children, teens, and adults on behalf of hungry children around the world. Kids Against Hunger seeks to end the literal hunger of children receiving the meals, but also satisfies a hunger among prosperous Americans - a hunger for meaning and contribution.

Since its inception, Kids Against Hunger has provided over 162 million meals in more than 60 countries through the efforts of hundreds of thousands of volunteers.

### BE A VOLUNTEER ON JANUARY 28!

There will be two shifts for working that morning...8:00 – 10:00 & 10:00 AM – Noon. Sign up in fellowship hall or call or e-mail Nancy Ross (337-5436) (therosses@mchsi.com).

## Meet your Deacons for 2012

The Deacons' purpose is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ. In order to carry out this caring ministry and coordinate efforts, each congregant has two Deacons. Deacon contacts are meant to be a supplement to, not a replacement for, existing relationships among church members. We intend to ensure that everyone has a point of contact, access to, and awareness of, available resources. As a need arises, please feel free to call on your Deacons to arrange any assistance you may need, such as a meal or a ride to an appointment.

**Deacons want to meet you**, and we want you to meet and know your Deacons. All are invited to a "Meet Your Deacons" event to be held in fellowship hall on Sunday, January 22. Deacons will be present between the 8:00AM and 10:30AM worship services, as well as after the 10:30AM worship service. Please look for the first letter of your last name to find your Deacons' table. Come chat for awhile!

### Deacon Networks for 2012

- A-B: Rick Boland & David Carlson (*The Burgundy Team*)
- C-D: Bill Terry & Jen Kirschling (*The Sunshine Yellow Team*)
- E-G: Anita Burnett & Becky Crutchfield (*The Red Team*)
- H-K: Vern Dengler & Glenn Van Roekel (*The Purple Team*)
- L-Mc: Jeremy Fletcher & Liz Hall (*The Orange Team*)
- Me-O: Ann Grosscup & Mike Phelps (*The Fuchsia Team*)
- P-Sc: Mary Linn & Sue Olson (*The Gold Team*)
- Se-Sz: Carol Martin & Steve Smith (*The Teal Team*)
- T-Z: Tim Fehr & Roxanne Boysen (*The Blue Team*)

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## Dear sisters and brothers of First Presbyterian Church,

The peace of the Lord be with you!

Well, it has arrived: 2012, the year the Mayan calendar has indicated the world will come to an end. December 21 of this year is the exact date. It is about time. I have known the date for about five years, but decided to cover my bets by not making a prediction too quickly. After all, the world might have ended at any moment sooner, and I hate being proven too wrong. But now that it is 2012 . . . well, I can miss by months and still be right. Well, maybe.

My understanding is that the Mayan calendar just ends, rather than predicts the end. Maybe the calendar maker decided the winter solstice of 2012 was sufficient: Enough is enough. Or perhaps, he dropped over dead, or got called away for lunch and then forgot where he put his calendar. Hey, I have done this quite often, not only with calendars but with winter coats, cell phones, and my glasses. My mom once put her glasses in the refrigerator and nobody predicted the end of the world, although dad made a really big deal out of it, as if it were the end of the world. Not good. Think about it.

Predicting the future is tricky business. Even the Bible swerves away from going there too frequently. Obvious candidates for Biblical fortune-telling are Daniel and The Book of Revelation, yet most likely we should view them as forms of pastoral care: They are assurances of the triumph of God over evil, thereby giving their readers hope.

The prophets represent a more interesting case. Biblically and generally speaking, prophets were not considered predictors of the future. Rather, it was believed that they shaped the future. Preaching the word of God, their task, meant that the people believed that God would honor their words and make their words the word of God. So if Elijah announced a drought, God would bring a drought. If Isaiah announced the coming of a suffering servant into the world, God would send a suffering servant. Put plainly, God doesn't determine our world's future unilaterally. Nor do human beings, however pious, shape the world unilaterally. It is a partnership: Those who speak the

word of God become co-creators of the world with God. Of course, prophets would not preach unless they were sure that they had a word to share from God. So God was also a co-creator of the prophets and the prophets' words.

It all sounds pretty circular, yet the bottom line is this: It is doubtful a Mayan calendar predicts the end of the world, unless somebody does something really stupid to make it so. I mean truly stupid, the stupidity of evil, of terrorism and tyranny, of weapons of nuclear or biological mass destruction. The type of stupid that insists the world must come to an end on December 21.

Yet this won't happen. I know this because it is only when good people remain silent, and sit on the political and economic sidelines in apathy and despair, that evil people are given the opportunity to rule. You and I won't let this happen, will we? We cannot make paradise – we are too sinful for such an outcome in 2012 – but I suspect we can make the new year happy.

So have a happy new year . . . no, that's not quite right. Speak and act your way into a happy new year, for yourself, your family, the stranger, the foreigner who needs a welcome, and the desolate one who needs a friend. Collaborate with God and co-create a happy new year. Open the door wide into the new year: The word of God awaits you.

Love and blessings!

Your pastor,

*Pastor Sam*



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**C**ouples contemplating requesting a marriage blessing at First Presbyterian Church, who are not members or the children of members, are required to attend a new member class. These begin Sunday, February 5, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. and last through April 1. Although **attendance** is required to schedule a marriage blessing, interested couples are not **required** to become members of First Presbyterian Church. For more information, you are invited to consult the First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City website <http://www.firstpresbiowacity.org/resources/marriage-blessing-policy.aspx> or contact Pastor Sam at (319)351-2660.



### Spiritual Formation Class: Open House on February 5

Pastor Sam Massey will lead a class interpreting church membership as part of our journey of faith. While class

content focuses on the spiritual formation of new members, all interested persons are welcome. Class starts Sunday morning, February 5, from 9:15 - 10 a.m. in room 14 on the lower level.

Those choosing to join FPC will be received into membership on Saturday, April 7, during The Great Easter Vigil.

**Pre-registration by Jan. 30** is encouraged to help with class material preparations.

Please contact Pastor Sam (sam.massey@firstpresbiowacity.org) with any questions you may have about this amazing journey.

### Mark your calendars!

Our annual family-friendly Mardi Gras celebration will be held on Saturday, February 18, at 4:30 p.m. Join us in the fellowship hall for mask-making, pancakes, and our traditional Mardi Gras trivia quiz, hosted by Kory May. All are welcome!



### CHILI LUNCH Sunday, February 12, right after 10:30 a.m. worship

Lunch will be hosted by our youth and their parents, in conjunction with our annual congregational meeting, to benefit our youth ministry programs. Please join us!

The congregational meeting for receiving reports, asking questions, and deciding the pastor's terms of call will be held after worship on Sunday, February 12, 2012

**EAT OUT GROUP**

Join Us at *Bandana's* in Coralville

January 26th at 6 pm

Questions? Contact Pat & Pete Van Gerpen 351-2363

### ~Needles, Hooks and Yarn~

Did you set a resolution in 2012 to learn a new skill or finish that scarf you started 2 years ago? Well now is the time. Join us Saturday mornings from 9-11 a.m. at the church. Come learn something new or refresh your memory. We knit, crochet, drink coffee and chat. What better way to start the day?



Questions - contact Carol Macon at 351-3847 or Tammy Schroeder at 351-2660.

## FPC recognizes estate planners through membership in *The 1840 Legacy Society*

At its December meeting, the Endowment Committee recommended and Session later approved the establishment of *The 1840 Legacy Society* to recognize and honor individuals who have included the Church in their estate plans or who make a current gift of \$5,000 or more to the Endowment. The Society takes its name from the year that First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City was established.

Examples of qualifying estate gifts include will designations, IRA or other retirement account designations, life insurance policies where FPC is the owner or beneficiary, a charitable gift annuity or trust where FPC is the beneficiary, or a gift of a life estate.

In other business, the Endowment Committee received two grant proposals and recommended to Session approval of \$1,300 for travel expenses for Lara Marsh and Judy Whitford, overture advocates appointed by Presbytery to the 2012 General Assembly. Session approved the recommendation, which uses the last of the funds available from the endowment for 2012. Applications for grants for 2013 will be accepted beginning August 31, 2012.

If you would like additional information about *The 1840 Legacy Society*, please contact Pastor Sam or any member of the Endowment Committee: Connie Richardson, chair, Ken Fisher, Jackie Harb, Tom Martin, or Dave Van Dusseldorp.

## Another Big Thank You to You and to God

Through you, God has done the amazing in last year's season of economic uncertainty. Pledging and giving has allowed us to face 2012 with confidence. While not every calling we experience has led to a budgeted response as yet, I have to believe that generous congregational giving and new pledges will allow us to add generosity to generosity. We will be able to do all the mission and program God has intended for us. Well done, good and faithful servants! How wonderful are your works, O Lord (Psalm 92:5)!

Love and blessings. Sam

## Update on Doctoral Work

The more things change ... I have just resubmitted a revision of the first three chapters of my dissertation. This is one out of ... well, I don't remember how many! If you recall, getting these three chapters approved and defended is the next big hurdle in my pursuit of the Ph.D. degree. Granted I am successful, the following challenges will be doing the research and performing the analysis. I am hoping that I do not have to go to Gonzaga this summer for an extended period of time. Nevertheless, I will be taking time off to do research and writing.

Thanks for all your prayerful support. This really is our degree: I couldn't do this without you.

Love and blessings. Sam

## Session Highlights from December 20, 2011 ~by Judy Terry, clerk of session

Session met at the new time of 7:00 p.m. in room 14 and opened with prayer, scripture reading and song.

The Congregational Health Ministries Team presented their motion for the replacement of some pews with new flexible seating for physically challenged worshipers. Session gave its approval.

It was reported that all officer examinations had been completed and the installation/ordination would be Sunday, January 8.

Treasurer Larry Bruner reported the church finances were in decent shape and expenses in order. Approved a motion to transfer money from the organ repair fund to the Endowment Fund.

Approved 2012 budget with a salary pool for increases.

Approved that technology for 2012 be funded by budget balance from the 2011 budget.

A motion was approved to congratulate the congregation for its contributions in 2011 and its pledges in 2012. ***Well done, FPC!!!***

It was approved that session set aside time at the February meeting to review the vision and mission statement for its present applicability.

Pastor Sam thanked the officers rotating off for their service and presented them with a small good-bye gift. A brief reception followed.

Officer assignments and a council realignment (combining the Administration and Personnel Councils) were approved for 2012.

Approved asking presbytery for financial help for the overture advocates to attend General Assembly, and approved \$1300 from the endowment income to assist with the expenses.

Reports from each council were submitted.

Adjourned at 9:29 p.m., joys and concerns were shared and Pastor Sam closed with prayer.



We want to hear from you!

# First's Family

**If you have a news item for the First's Family News that you'd like to share, please submit it by 12 noon the 1st of each month for publication the 15th of the month to [tammy.foster@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:tammy.foster@firstpresbiowacity.org).**

**Thank you!**

**Send us your NEWS!**



## Birthday Blessings

### January 15-31

- 01/16 Jean James
- 01/16 Kip Neubauer
- 01/18 Tyler Artz
- 01/18 Conner Graves
- 01/20 Mary Linn
- 01/22 Vivian Adams
- 01/23 Mike Farran
- 01/23 Deb Minot
- 01/23 Mary Roberts
- 01/23 John Westefeld
- 01/24 Keith Brown
- 01/24 Helen Chadima
- 01/24 James Portman
- 01/25 Will Massey
- 01/26 Jim Bradley
- 01/26 David Carlson
- 01/26 Jackie Finn
- 01/28 Kathy Maxey
- 01/28 Logan Schroeder
- 01/29 Dwight Shaffer
- 01/30 Evelyn Greimann
- 01/31 Chris Greimann
- 01/31 Ann Grosscup
- 01/31 Carol Macon
- 01/31 Betty McNeal
- 01/31 Herb Wilson

### February

- 02/01 Steve Schomberg
- 02/02 Johanna Kruckeberg
- 02/03 Diana Evers
- 02/03 Craig Frey
- 02/03 Janet Markham
- 02/04 Pam Ehrhardt
- 02/04 Hope Shreves
- 02/05 Rachel Nelson
- 02/07 Alex Jacobus
- 02/07 Kristin Summerwill
- 02/08 Cary Covington
- 02/08 Wayne Goode
- 02/08 Laura Jacobus
- 02/08 Ella Lowry
- 02/09 Mason Frey
- 02/10 Tammy Schroeder
- 02/11 Cherry Sparks
- 02/12 Daissy Owen
- 02/14 Alexandra Marsh
- 02/14 Linda Morris
- 02/16 Gina Liddell-Westefeld
- 02/17 Vicki Protector
- 02/19 Cullen Schroeder
- 02/20 Tanner Artz
- 02/20 Grace Piro
- 02/20 Kirsten Stensvaag
- 02/23 Toni DeRyke
- 02/23 Greta Lowry
- 02/24 Jackson DenHerder
- 02/25 Grace Young
- 02/27 Joanne Cryder
- 02/28 DeAnn Claypool
- 02/28 Nancy Ross



**Known  
to have been  
Hospitalized:**

**Mary Ann Clemons, Nancy Powers,  
Wanda Martin, and Nancy Swisher**



To the family of **John Barr**, whose mother, Norma Barr, died on January 20.

When I heard that the members of the Needles, Hooks and Yarn group were planning to participate in this year's Special Olympics USA Scarf Project, I was very happy. Just knowing that our FPC family wanted to help out was a great feeling. However, when I saw FIFTY-ONE scarves beautifully displayed in the sanctuary on December 4, I was amazed and overwhelmed! Even though none of our three athletes will be participating in this year's Winter Games, they each received a scarf to keep as a reminder of the time, talent and love that were woven into each one. On behalf of Kip and Tyson Neubauer, and our own Sara, thank you so very much! Ann Burton

Thanks to the Needles Hooks and Yarn group for making the scarves for the 2012 winter games! It will keep a lot of people warm and I like my scarf too! Sara Burton

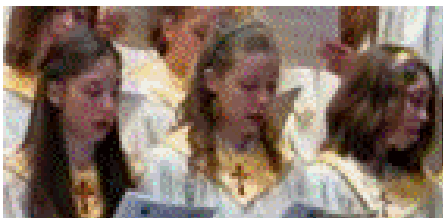


~by Darlene Bergman  
Director of Music and Liturgical Arts

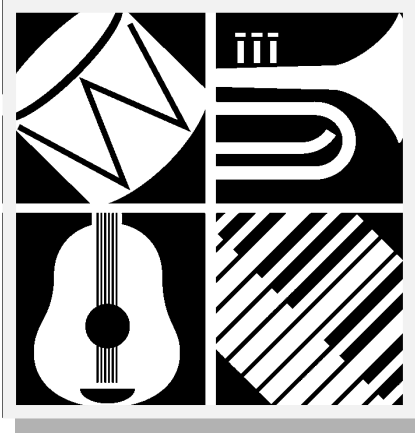
### **What's a Body to Do During Ordinary Time?**

*(This theological reflection was written by my friend, David Batchelder, Pastor of the West Plano, Texas, Presbyterian Church and is reprinted here with permission. It seems to me a rich statement on which to ponder as we embark upon a new liturgical year.)*

It is not the soul alone that makes us human;  
    without the body we are a mere wisp, if that.  
Care for human begins in the liturgy where  
    we are embraced, washed, fed,  
    and brought to our feet (as well as our knees) in awe and wonder  
    before a God who loves us always and before we ever were.  
Such care as we are learning is a way of life we consent to live  
    by a choice that is as much a result of Love's divine wooing  
    as it is our continuing surrender to such love.  
This "way" is a peculiar form of "Embodied" knowledge  
    that enters muscle and ligament, skin and bone  
    before we ever conceptualize faith as "thought."  
Our common error is to locate faith's center of  
    gravity in the mind when, in fact,  
    faith is the relentless "Doing" in the body over time  
    that which we have seen and heard in Jesus.  
Though audacious, it is true nevertheless:  
    human begins can only reach full humanity  
    when we strive to reflect God's image in us—  
    which is a struggle not to be taken lightly,  
    since we live in a world where value must continually be earned.  
In an achievement-oriented world, even people are reduced to "commodities"—  
    having a worth that is gained or lost according to one's "usefulness."  
Therefore, it is not possible to have such faith as imagined here—  
    a surrender in obedience to extravagant "love"—  
    that is not also active in cultural resistance.  
And there can be no resistance without critical reflection  
    which identified corrosive patterns that weaken, disfigure, and distort such "love."  
To receive and share this "love"—  
    without regard for what it earns or produces or yields for our benefit—  
    is what salvation entails.  
Salvation does not remove us from this world,  
    but plunges us more deeply into it  
    as we are converted to a God-given "humanness" to be lived out daily.  
This "humanness" is nothing less than the same  
    as was made visible and offered us as gift  
    by the triune God who took flesh in Jesus Christ.  
This is the "gift" for which the saints give praise, the angels sing,  
    and the whole creation resounds in "Amen"



On Sunday, December 18, our Youth Choir led a Christmas worship service at the Oaknoll Retirement Center. The service, included readings, anthems and carols. This year marked the 12th year that our youth have led this annual service, one that both the youth and Oaknoll residents look forward to each year. After the service, the choir went to Godfather's for pizza and a celebration of a wonderful year of music making.



## Drumming Meditation Circle Returns under New Leadership

***What do drums have to do with worship?  
Why would we play drums for worship?***

It's our Heartbeat! Human beings are created to live in communion with God and with one another. By following the rhythm of our beating hearts through the drum, God gives to us an embodied connection with each other. Drumming can create connections to Christians around the world and here at home. This new relationship creates a worshiping environment where we together are renewed in sensing God's own heartbeat for us and for the circle of faith around the world. It has also been scientifically proven that drumming helps lower blood pressure and create a sense of calm and relaxation in a body.

***Who can play Drums?***

You do not need to have percussion experience to participate. Drums are unique in that getting started is easy! Drumming is for everyone—young, old and in-between! Aaron Ziegler, new to our congregation, is a graduate student at UI majoring in percussion. He has experience leading drumming circles for meditation and has volunteered to revitalize our drumming circle with a focus on releasing tension, enhancing meditation and calming and rejuvenating the soul. Drums will be provided or bring your own. Questions? Contact Darlene Bergman at 351-2660 or [darlene.bergman@firstpreswaciv.org](mailto:darlene.bergman@firstpreswaciv.org).

***"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth."—Psalm 100***

## **Eleventh ANNUAL BOOK & BAKE SALE**

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team in cooperation with Four Oaks Iowa City will be holding their **BOOK AND BAKE SALE** on *Saturday, March 24, from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m.* The proceeds from the sale will be divided between Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team and Four Oaks Iowa City.

The Presbyterian Women's portion will be used to lend support to local human service agencies that they choose to support through their mission giving.

Four Oaks is a long-established agency that provides a broad range of services to children and families throughout Iowa. In Iowa City it operates an Emergency Shelter for children; PAL, an after-school program for children needing more structure and supervision than is provided at home; the PHASE program for adjudicated youth; in-home treatment for families, plus many other programs to help children in need and to strengthen families. The Iowa City division of Four Oaks has operated in Iowa City for the past thirty-eight years.

**We are asking you to collect and contribute used books** (paperback and hardback), CD's, DVD's, video and audio-CD's or tapes, phonograph records, puzzles, comic books and framed pictures. (No encyclopedias, condensed books, magazines or textbooks please.) We will also be asking for contributions of baked goods. More information will be in the Sunday bulletins.

The staff of Four Oaks will also be collecting items and baking for the sale, and will share responsibility for setting up, helping on the morning of the sale, and cleaning up.

We will *need help from members* of our congregation in sorting and arranging contributions and supervising the sales rooms and baking. The sale will be extensively advertised so we are expecting a good turnout of customers. *Sign-up sheets will be posted in the fellowship hall in March.* We also will *need your help distributing flyers* around town.

***We also need you as customers! You'll be glad you came!***

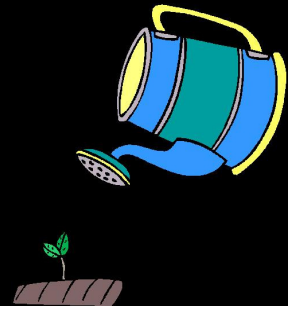
If you have questions contact Sharon Raffensperger at 351-6995 ([jsraff@avalon.net](mailto:jsraff@avalon.net)).

## Families and Faith: A Gathering for Parents

February 19

9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Room 14 (lower level)

This new group for parents of younger children will gather for an informal time of fellowship and planning for the new year. Please contact Beth Gier (beth.gier@firstpresbiowacity.org) with questions. All are welcome! Please join us!



## Children and Youth at FPC

### We Welcome Children!

Children are a vital part of our community of faith and we welcome them and value their presence among us! We offer a variety of programs for children of all ages, including weekly Sunday School classes, special activities throughout the school year, and our annual summer Vacation Bible School.

We welcome children to worship and we invite them to enjoy using the worship activity bags found on the coat trees just outside of the Sanctuary doors. These bags contain materials selected to help children understand more about what is happening during worship. Children are also encouraged to participate in the "Time with Children" each week during the service.

Childcare is provided in our Nursery on the lower level of the building during Sunday School classes (for infants and toddlers) and Sunday morning worship (for children 5 and under) as well as during special worship services and events throughout the year. Our childcare staff, headed by Deb Torrens-Semler -- a longtime member of our congregation, is dedicated to making our nursery a safe and comfortable place for all of its guests.

### Sunday School Classes

Sunday School classes for children and youth of all ages are held on the lower level of the church at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning. Join us as we learn, grow, and have a good time together on Sunday mornings.

#### The Way (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades)

This group for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>-graders meets monthly on Friday nights for games, snacks and fun. Your friends are welcome! Join us for dinner and games!

#### The Rock (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades)

This gathering for junior high school students (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>-graders) happens weekly during the school year on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. We have dinner, play games, talk, and generally have a great time together. Families of the youth involved in this group take turns providing our Thursday evening meals. All junior high school students (and their friends!) are welcome and invited to join us every Thursday evening! We're on FACEBOOK! Become a fan of "THE EDGE/THE ROCK" today!

#### The Edge (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)

This gathering for high school students (9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>-graders) happens weekly during the school year on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Come for snacks, movies, music, and good conversation about issues of faith and culture. Families of the youth involved in this group take turns providing our Thursday evening meals. All high school students (and their friends!) are welcome and invited to join us every Thursday evening! We're on FACEBOOK! Become a fan of "THE EDGE/THE ROCK" today!

### THE WAY Friday, January 27

All 4th-6th graders are welcome!

#### ICE SKATING



Meet at the Coral Ridge rink at 5:30 p.m. We'll skate until 7:00 p.m. Please eat before you come! January 27 is a "family free" night at the rink, so there is no charge for admission; skate rental is \$2. Questions? Contact Beth or George.

**A huge thank-you to our children's and youth Sunday School teachers.  
Please keep these folks in your prayers ... thank you!**

**YEAR-ROUND TEACHERS**

Preschool: Mary Ann Pedde, Chris Miller, Carol Shreves, Emma Gier  
Senior High + 8<sup>th</sup> grade: Jim Claypool, Andreas Soemadi, Susan Massey

**F.P.SEA! LIFEGUARDS [YEAR-ROUND]**

Kindergarten – Grade 1: Doris Yoder, Karen Hurt  
Grades 2-3: Tammy Foster, Brenda Bradley  
Grades 4-6: Joyce McMaster, Emma Greimann

**F.P.SEA! TEACHERS: ROTATION 4**

**[When Jesus Was a Child: January 8, 15, 22, 29]**

Bible Stories by-the-Sea: Sue and Gary Olson  
Cast-Your-Nets Creations: Valerie & Arielle Soemadi  
Disciples' Drama Co.: Amy Fletcher  
Fishy Films: Lara Marsh

**THANK YOU!**  
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who helped make our Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 18, a wonderful time of worship for all involved. A special thank you goes out to the home-from-college helpers who corralled sheep and goats, as well as the high school students and elementary school volunteers who took on speaking parts.



**Confirmation class began January 8.  
If you are not already signed up and  
wish to participate, please contact  
George Minot at 351-2660 or  
george.minot@firstpresbiowacity.org.**

**YOUTH ENJOY LOCK-IN**

Members of the Edge had a great time at our high school lock-in on December 22 and 23. Nearly 30 youth gathered for games, snacks, a movie and karaoke singing! A huge thank you to Edge alums Anessa Olson, Mischa Olson, Ian LeMaster, Will Massey and Nadia Razavi for their help that evening!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

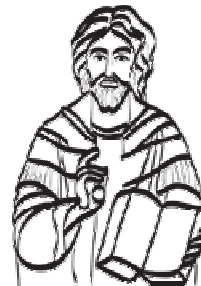
Our annual Vacation Bible School will be held June 25-29, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to noon each day. VBS is open to children in preschool through those entering 6th grade; older children and youth are invited to serve as volunteer helpers. Watch upcoming newsletters for more info!

**BIBLE QUIZ**

A New Testament book says God designated Jesus as a "high priest" and that Jesus was the most perfect mediator between God and humans.

Choose the name of the book below:

- A. Romans
- B. Hebrews
- C. Mathew
- D. Revelations



Answer: B (see chapters 5:1-10 and 9:11-15.)

**Wed 1/18**

7 AM FPC Men's Spiritual Growth Grp (FH)

10 AM Staff mtg (rm 14)

12:30 PM Organ practice (sanctuary)

5 PM Bldg & Grds Council (Coover)

7 PM Sanctuary Choir (choir rm)

**Thur 1/19**

9 AM Organ practice (sanctuary)

10 AM Free Lunch (Wesley Cntr)

4 PM Trumpet lessons (rm 15)

5 PM Endowment Comm (Library)

5:45 PM Thur night Bible Study (Coover)

6 PM The Rock, The Edge (FH, yth rm)

6:45 PM Junior Choir & Orff (choir rm)

7:30 PM Youth Choir (choir rm)

**Fri 1/20**

12:30 PM Organ practice (sanctuary)

**Sat 1/21**

8:30 AM NAMI (rm 14 & yth rm)

9:30 AM Needles, Hooks & Yarn (FH)

**Sun 1/22**

8 AM Adult Handbell Choir (choir rm)

8 AM Worship and Communion

8:15 AM Meet & Greet Your Elder/Coffee

9:15 AM Confirmation, Sunday School

9:15 AM The Wired Word (Coover)

10:30 AM Worship

11:30 AM Churchestra, FPC Brass Grp

**Mon 1/23**

12:30 PM Organ practice (sanctuary)

7 PM Faith Seeking Understanding

7:30 PM Worship Council (Coover)

8 PM FPC Woodwind Grp (choir rm)

**Tue 1/24**

9 AM Organ practice

2 PM Trumpet lessons (Choir Room)

7 PM Mission Council (FH)

**Wed 1/25**

7 AM FPC Men's Spiritual Growth Grp

9:30 AM Wed Morning Bible Readings

10:45 AM Staff mtg (rm 14)

12 PM FPC Book Club

12:30 PM Organ practice (sanctuary)

7 PM Sanctuary Choir (choir rm)

**Thur 1/26**

9 AM Organ practice (sanctuary)

4 PM Trumpet lessons (rm 15)

5:45 PM Thur night Bible Study (Coover)

6 PM Eat Out grp (Bandana's, Coralville)

6 PM The Rock, The Edge (FH, yth rm,

6:45 PM Junior Choir & Orff (choir rm)

7:30 PM Youth Choir (choir rm)

**Fri 1/27**

12:30 PM Organ practice

5:30 PM The Way (Coral Ridge rink)

**Sat 1/28**

8 AM Kids Against Hunger (FH)

9:30 AM Needles, Hooks & Yarn (Coover)

2 PM Memorial Service for B Erickson

7:30 PM Six Plus Grp (Fisher home)

**Sun 1/29**

8 AM Adult Handbell Choir (chr rm)

8 AM Worship and Communion

8:15 AM Coffee fellowship (FH)

9:15 AM Confirmation, Sunday School

9:15 AM Forum on Capital Punishment

9:15 AM The Wired Word (Coover)

10:30 AM Worship

11:30 AM Churchestra, FPC Brass Grp

**Mon 1/30**

12:30 PM Organ practice (sanctuary)

8 PM FPC Woodwind Grp (chr rm)

First Presbyterian Church 2701 Rochester Ave. Iowa City, IA 52245  
Tel: 319-351-2660

**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

8 am Handbell Choir, **5**  
8 am Worship  
8-12:15 Coffee fellowship  
9:15 Confirmation class  
9:15 Sunday School  
9:15 Adult Ed, Spiritual  
Formation Class  
11:30 Churchestra and Brass  
Group, choir rm

12-3 Organ **6**  
  
7 pm Faith Seeking  
Understanding,  
library  
8 pm FPC Woodwinds,  
choir rm

9-3 Organ **7**  
2-8 Trumpet Lessons,  
choir rm  
6:30 Orchid Club,  
yth rm  
7:30 Eye Circle,  
Coover

8 am Handbell Choir **12**  
8 am Worship,  
8 am Coffee fellowship  
9:15 Confirmation class  
9:15 Sunday School  
9:15 Adult Ed, Spiritual  
Formation Class  
10:30 Worship  
11:30 Chili lunch,  
Congregational mtg  
2 & 4 Piano recitals and  
reception, sanctuary,  
fellowship hall

12-3 Organ **13**  
  
8 pm FPC Woodwinds,  
choir rm

9-3 Organ **14**  
2-8 Trumpet  
Lessons, chr rm  
7 pm Deacons,  
Coover

8 am Handbell Choir **19**  
8 am Worship  
8-12:15 Coffee fellowship  
9:15 Confirmation class  
9:15 Sunday School  
9:15 Gathering for Parents  
9:15 Adult Ed, Spiritual  
Formation Class  
10:30 Worship  
11:30 Churchestra and Brass  
Group, choir rm

12-3 Organ **20**  
7 pm Faith Seeking  
Understanding,  
library  
8 pm UI Men's Growth  
grp, Coover  
8 pm FPC Woodwinds,  
choir rm

9-3 Organ **21**  
2-8 Trumpet Lessons,  
choir rm  
7 pm Session, Coover

8 am Handbell Choir **26**  
8 am Worship  
8-12:15 Coffee fellowship  
9:15 Confirmation class  
9:15 Sunday School  
9:15 Adult Ed, Spiritual  
Formation Class  
10:30 Worship  
11:30 Churchestra and Brass  
Group, choir rm

12-3 Organ **27**  
  
8 pm FPC Woodwinds,  
choir rm

9-3 Organ **28**  
2-8 Trumpet Lessons,  
choir rm  
7 pm Mission Council,  
fellowship hall

# February 2012

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>7 am Men's Grp, fellowship hall <b>1</b></p> <p><b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 10:45 Staff mtg, rm 14 12-3 Organ</p>	<p>9-12 Organ practice <b>2</b> 9 am Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team, Coover</p> <p>4-6 Trumpet Lessons, rm 15 5:45-7:15 Thur night Bible study, Coover</p> <p>6 pm The Rock, The Edge, dinner, FH 6:45 Junior Choir, choir rm 7:30 Youth Choir, choir rm</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>12-3 Organ 1 pm UI Women's Assoc Reader's Theater, Coover</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>9:30 Needles, Hooks &amp; Yarn, resumes, FH</p>
<p>7 am Men's Grp, fellowship hall <b>8</b></p> <p>9:30 Bible Study, Coover 10:45 Staff mtg, rm 14 12-3 Organ</p> <p>7 pm Sanctuary Choir, choir rm</p>	<p>9-12 Organ practice <b>9</b></p> <p>4-6 Trumpet Lessons, rm 15</p> <p>5:45-7:15 Thur night Bible study Coover 6 pm The Rock, The Edge, dinner, FH 6:45 Junior Choir, choir rm 7:30 Youth Choir, choir rm</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>12-3 Organ 12-3 PEO, Coover</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>8:30 PEO, Coover 9:30 Needles, Hooks &amp; Yarn, FH</p>
<p>7 am Men's Grp, fellowship hall <b>15</b></p> <p>10 am Staff, rm 14</p> <p><b>Session Materials Due</b> 12 Book Club, Panera Bakery, Sycamore Mall 12-3 Organ</p> <p>7pm Sanctuary Choir, choir rm</p>	<p>9-12 Organ <b>16</b></p> <p>10-2 Free Lunch, Wesley Cntr</p> <p>4-6 Trumpet Lessons, rm 15 5:30 Endowment Comm, library 5:45-7:15 Thur night Bible study, Coover</p> <p>6 pm The Rock, The Edge, dinner, FH 6:45 Junior Choir, choir rm 7:30 Youth Choir, choir rm</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>12-3 Organ Set up for Mardi Gras Party, fellowship hall</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>9:30 Needles, Hooks &amp; Yarn, FH</p> <p>4:30 Family-friendly Mardi Gras party, fellowship hall</p>
<p><b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>22</b></p> <p>7 am Men's Grp, rm 14 9:30 Bible Study, Coover 10:45 Staff mtg, rm 14 12-3 Organ</p> <p>6:30 Sanctuary Choir 7 pm Ash Wednesday service</p>	<p>9-12 Organ practice <b>23</b></p> <p>4-6 Trumpet Lessons, rm 15</p> <p>5:45-7:15 Thur night Bible study Coover 6 pm The Rock, The Edge, dinner, FH 6:45 Junior Choir, choir rm 7:30 Youth Choir, choir rm</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>12-3 Organ</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>9 am Needles, Hooks &amp; Yarn, Coover</p>
<p>7 am Men's Grp, fellowship hall <b>29</b></p> <p>9:30 Bible Study, Coover 10:45 Staff mtg, rm 14 12-3 Organ</p> <p>7 pm Sanctuary Choir, choir rm</p>			

# Adult Education

In response to the grace of God in Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit, the **Mission** of the First Presbyterian church of Iowa City is to witness to the presence of Christ in the world by:

- **Celebrating** the good news of Jesus Christ as a gathered community in the reverence, beauty, joy and dignity of Christian worship;
- **Nourishing** the faith and commitment of children, youth and adults through study, prayer and Christian fellowship;
- **Sharing** our faith with our families, neighbors and strangers;
- **Dedicating** our individual spiritual gifts, talents, time and material blessings to God's use every day of the week;
- **Working** for peace and justice in our homes, local community and world through individuals, our congregation, the Presbyterian church (USA) and ecumenical organizations.

**Adult Education at First Presbyterian** seeks to embody the church's mission statement by offering a variety of classes and forums, including Sunday small groups and weekday gatherings. This winter, we'll enrich our faith and work by **celebrating** worship—two Sunday services!—and **nourishing** the faith by study, prayer and fellowship.

## CELEBRATING THE GOOD NEWS

**First Sunday Coffee Caucus on Sunday, February 5, at 12 noon – 1 p.m., and continuing every first Sunday of the month through May 2012 in Coover Lounge.**

Once a month Pastor Sam (and perhaps other staff persons) will make themselves available to talk about any topic that members and friends want to bring to the table. Consider it a sort of Wittenberg door for sharing ideas and faith (in 1517 reformer Martin Luther first nailed his 95 Theses on the Wittenberg church door, and there began the social transformation of Europe). God, life, church operations, politics and any other subject under the sun can be brought up for cordial dialogue. No reservation necessary!

## **NOURISHING THE FAITH Sunday mornings, 9:15-10:15**

### **The Wired Word Coover Lounge**

Our continuing adventure—the *Wired Word*—is a series of questions and answers offered each week that links the latest national and world news to cutting-edge Biblical scripture. Developed by a panel of 8-10 people—ministers, deacons, elders and lay leaders young and old—the *Word* selects a significant headline of the week and then develops the lesson plan by weaving various points of view and applying it to six or eight Biblical texts. Facilitated by Don Kolsrud. Join us; all are welcome!

## **WORKING FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE**

**A Forum on Capital Punishment January 29 9:15-10:15 Room 13 downstairs**

In 2010 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church reaffirmed its stance against capital punishment, and called for “an immediate moratorium on all executions.”

It also called for direct advocacy by the Stated Clerk...and the President of the United States, Barack Obama. Join us as we discuss this still volatile issue---religious organizations' perspectives, the current state of affairs in 2012---and talk about social justice in our community and country. Ruth Westfall will lead the presentation. Join us; all are welcome.

## Weekday Studies and Small Groups

### Wednesday morning Bible readings

Coover Lounge, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

We'll be reading from the New Testament during Ordinary Time---the good news! The good letters! We'll start with Paul's letter to the Galatians, which is often called the Magna Carta of Christian liberty. Join us; all are welcome!

Jan. 25 Galatians, chapter 2  
Feb. 1 The purpose of the Law  
Feb. 8 By faith not works

### Thursday night Bible study with Pastor Sam Massey and Patte Henderson

Thursdays, Coover Lounge, 5:45-7:15 p.m.

The apostle Paul proclaimed that the gospel is "the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith." Paul in his letter to the Romans unpacks the implications of the gospel for the church in Rome that he had never visited. It is said that Paul's theology can be complex for those who cannot appreciate ambiguity. Indeed, it is said that the second-century heretic Marcion was the only one who came close to understanding Paul, and yet Marcion "completely misunderstood him."

You are invited on a study journey in which we will be "Roamin' through Romans" as a parallel track with Pastor Sam's sermon series on Paul's letter to the Romans that continues throughout the spring. While 5:45 p.m. will be the 'start time' to gather and prepare, the actual Bible study will begin at 6 p.m. and end at 7, with Pastor Sam available thereafter for extra questions and reflections. Decaf coffee and water will be served, and you are invited to bring your own dinner and drink. Participants will be called on to do their own Bible reading and studying of resources. Questions? Talk with Pastor Sam @ 351-2660 or sam.massey@firstpresbiowacity.org.

### FPC Men's Spiritual Formation Group Update

Our Men's Group kicked off 2012 with a meeting on January 11 with 13 men participating in breakfast and robust fellowship. Those attending this gathering have been FPC members for between 2 and 56 years.

We will continue to meet at 7:00 to 8:00 am, with a \$1 donation requested to help defray the cost of breakfast.

#### **Upcoming events this spring include:**

1. A men's retreat at Camp Wyoming, beginning Friday evening, 4/13, through mid-afternoon on Saturday, 4/14. Three meals, lodging and a spiritual growth facilitator will be included for the \$50 registration fee. Interested men should contact John Barr no later than Friday, 1/20, so that the reservation with Camp Wyoming can be confirmed. John can be reached at BarrJohnO@sau.edu or 319-338-7740 (home).
2. A fly-fishing retreat in Highlandville, IA, beginning Thursday, 4/26, and concluding Saturday, 4/28. Participation can be for all or just a portion of this time. Jim Claypool will again lead this retreat of fellowship and fly-fishing. No previous experience or equipment is necessary. An Iowa fishing license with trout tag will be required. If you're interested and / or have additional questions, contact Jim at jclaypool@iowatelecom.net.

### Faith Seeking Understanding

For the last five years, a small group of 'theologians' have met during the year to talk faith and seek understanding. We've read Bonhoeffer, discussed Palestine and Israel, and read *Love Wins*, a book about heaven, hell, and the fate of every person who ever lived. This new year we're reading C.S. Lewis and *Mere Christianity*—the classic explication of the faith. Join us as we start 2012 with Lewis, a master of lucid apologetics whose religious imagination also encompassed space odysseys and fairy tales and the Narnia Chronicles. All are welcome!

Monday, January 23, at 7 p.m. in the church library

Feb. 6 *Mere Christianity*

Feb. 20 Is Christianity hard or easy?

### The FPC Book Club

Wednesday, January 25,

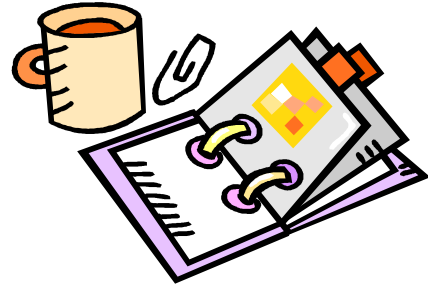
at noon at Panera's, Sycamore Mall

We'll begin 2012 with Dave Eggers' *Zeitoun*, an Iowa One Community, One Book choice. It's the heart-breaking and life-affirming story of one man (and family) during the New Orleans flood. Join us as we gather at Panera's Bakery—bring or buy your lunch. Sharon Raffensperger will be the leader. All are welcome!

For more information on any of these Christian Education classes, contact George Minot, Director of Adult Education. Phone 351-2660 or email [george.minot@firstpresbiowacity.org](mailto:george.minot@firstpresbiowacity.org)

## 2012 – A New Year of Activities for Presbyterian Women

We all begin a new year by buying our new calendars...one for making appointments, one for the handbag and one for the wall; maybe a couple more...one for the refrigerator and one near the desk. It seems we simply cannot have enough calendars for all our activities. As you fill in the already-spoken-for-dates don't forget to add these.



**Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team** – February 2 at 9:00 a.m. in Coover Lounge.

**Eve Circle** – February 7 at 7:30 p.m. in Coover Lounge. Co-hostesses are Toni DeRyke and Lee Ann Koch. Mary Ellen Stamp will provide devotions. The program will be announced by Judy Terry and Jan Wicks via a member e-mail.

**Martha Circle** – does not meet until March 21.

Other activities you can look forward to this spring include Kids Against Hunger packing event on Saturday, **January 28**; World Day of Prayer at Christ the King Church on Friday, **March 2**; Book and Bake Sale on Saturday, **March 24**; Spring Workshop in Mechanicsville on Thursday, **April 12**; and the Spring Salad Luncheon on Saturday, **April 14**.

### Note your pledge reminder on your calendar!

At the beginning of each year Circle members are asked to make a pledge. These individual pledges are applied toward the pledge made by the Women's Coordinating Team to the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of East Iowa. This year that pledge is \$1,000, our contribution to the General Assembly budget for the World Wide Mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA). That body uses our contributions to support Presbyterian mission work in Iowa and at the national and world level. We also pay 15% of the amount pledged to be used for administrative costs of the women's program plus additional contributions. Since our individual pledges amount to considerably less than our pledge to Presbyterian Women, we must supplement member contributions with proceeds from money-raising projects.

### The updated 2012 Presbyterian Women Membership Book will be distributed in February.

#### **Horizons magazine is the official magazine of Presbyterian Women.**

Currently, you can subscribe to this award-winning magazine that is full of an incredible blend of information and inspiration for only \$19.95. This is a discounted rate that saves you \$5; PLUS you will receive seven issues instead of six; PLUS the amazing annual Bible Study "Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles" by Nancy Benson-Nicol, chaplain at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas; and PLUS a Free Psalms calendar.

The offer is good only through February 28. Order by sending your check to Horizons/Presbyterian Women, P.O. Box 421, Congers NY 10920-9827.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

One hundred Christian girls and young women ranging from elementary school age through high school **rejoice** that they have the opportunity to attend school and reside in the hostel (dormitory) of the Presbyterian Education Board School in Pasrur, Pakistan.

These young women attend the school with about 400 other young people, a mix of Christians and Muslims. This educational opportunity is changing their lives. They come from impoverished Christian families. Before being selected as students they could hold little hope for a happy future.



Poorly educated young women are often sold into slavery or married at an early age to much older and sometimes abusive men. Will all of these young women be in school next year? The good news is that you have done it again! We now have enough scholarships for all 100 to return to school and also enough for the five or so girls among our spring graduates who wish to continue to Pasrur “junior college” for advanced training.

Our church has done a remarkable job in supporting this school. It all began in 1999 when we learned of the inadequacy of the facilities. There was not enough classroom space. Children had to squat on stools in the blazing sun to study. They had no desks nor a library. Restroom facilities were totally inadequate. We came to the rescue with 320 desks, then built a multi-purpose building and library. Later we built the dormitory providing for 100 young women from surrounding villages to live at the school during the academic year. This was possible because of the gifts of some extremely generous church members and smaller gifts from many others. For the past six years our church members and a few friends have provided boarding school scholarships (tuition, books, uniforms and room and board at \$450 each) for 100 girls each year. Additionally we are now making it possible for several others to continue their education (\$750 each for board and room, tuition, etc.) at our newly established Pasrur junior college. More about that later.

The new school year begins in April. The balance of our scholarship money will be sent in February. Friends of Pasrur, the support group for the Pasrur School, is so appreciative of the support for this remarkable school by members of our church. “Our” students rank close to the top in competitive testing of all the Presbyterian Schools in Pakistan.

Members of Friends of Pasrur are Sharon and Bill Oglesby, Jane and Ed Cranston, Becky Crutchfield, Leann Graves, Mary Linn, Nancy Gardner, Anita Burnett, Susan Massey, Janice Baumbach, Sue Dallam, Nancy Stensvaag, Nancy Ross, Janice Wilson, Kate Lind, Nancy Weber and Julie Lindower.  
*Submitted by Janice Baumbach*

### **What’s in the Tool Bucket? The Building and Grounds Update!**

Welcome to the January/February B & G Stop Light Report. Green light items are things that have been addressed and are completed. Yellow light items are those things that are in progress. Red light items are those issues that cannot be addressed at this moment with the reasons why and/or long-term plans for. For example, these may require specific fund-raising.

The B&G Council changes leadership for 2012 as Sue Farran has completed her terms on Session and Connie Richardson devotes her leadership time to Endowment. Don Ross and Ron Mildenstein are taking over the B&G Chair responsibilities, and Sue will continue as a B&G member. Connie and Sue would like to thank all of you for your support and contributions to the building’s and grounds’ needs this past year.

For a summary of the 2011 accomplishments, works in progress, and dreams and plans for the future please see the Stop Light board in fellowship hall.

We are looking, looking, looking for volunteers. If you have a particular set of skills and would be willing to serve as “doers” or consultants as the need arises, please let us know.

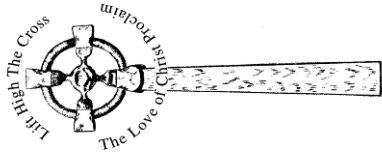
Remember you can find our Stop Light report in Fellowship Hall along with our Tool Bucket and Apron just waiting for your ideas and offers of help/knowledge. Thanks to all of you who have already contributed your observations and ideas for projects and areas of concern. Thanks also to those of you who have already indicated your willingness to lend your expertise through the contribution of your actual skills (and physical labor) as well as through your knowledge as a resource to us. Our Tool Bucket remains open for your continuing contributions.

Please feel free to contact Don Ross or Ron Mildenstein with your thoughts, questions, and ideas!

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**Office Hours**  
 Monday -Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



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