

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
321 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS 62701

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February 16, 2007



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH UPDATE

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

February 2007

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

321 S. 7th Street
Springfield Illinois 62701
(217) 528-4311
www.lincolnschurch.org

STAFF

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Pat Olson, Bookkeeper

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Mike Self, Security

SPARC, Janitorial

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

WORSHIP/CLASSES

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School

9:00 a.m. Adult Education Programs

10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sanctuary

Wednesdays:

5:30 p.m. Vespers

Please submit all information for inclusion in
the newsletter to the church office to Cindy at
the e-mail address listed above.

Editorial Coordinator and
Production-Cindy Cass

**A Presbytery-wide
Celebratory Worship Service
in Mike Orr's honor**
See page 3 for the full story

Lenten Retreat to be Held
See page 5 for more details

Children and Youth Activities
Check out page 4 for all the fun that's coming up!

Stewardship still needs your help
See page 7 for more information

**The church office is now open on Fridays
from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**



Pastors Column

Two little girls are playing in the front yard; grandmother is watching and reading on the front porch. The visiting child asks her host, "Why is your grandmother always reading the Bible?" The reply, "She's studying for finals." While fear . . . or guilt . . . or responsibility . . . can motivate us, I believe a more compelling and sustaining motivation is love.

The Bible is God's love letter to you. "Come to me all you who labor and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls," says Jesus (Mt. 11) "He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul," says the psalmist. (Ps. 23) "Nothing shall separate you from the love of God . . . nothing in life . . . not death itself," says Saint Paul. (Rm. 8)

I invite you to join me in reading through the gospels three times during 2007. The schedule I will follow is:

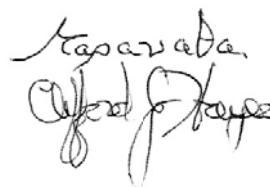
- * Matthew..... January, May, September
- * Mark..... February, June, October
- * Luke..... March, July, November
- * John..... April, August, December

Sometime during each month I will offer a brief quiz . . . for fun and "prophet." By December 31, 2007, as we prayerfully read God's word together, we will find ourselves closer to God and to each other.

Quiz for the Gospel of Matthew

1. The first 17 verses in Matthew begin in what manner?
 2. "After Jesus was born . . . magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked 'Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews?' When Herod heard this he was disturbed." Matthew goes on to say that in addition to Herod, others were also disturbed by this news. Who else was disturbed? (Mt. 2:3)
 3. Who was it that said, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near." (Mt. 3:1-2)
 4. Who led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil? (Mt. 4:1)
 5. When Jesus was tempted by the devil he buttressed his defense with scripture from which Old Testament book? (Mt. 4: 4, 7, 10)
 6. Chapters 5 – 7 of the Gospel of Matthew is known as what?
 7. The Sermon on the Mount begins with the beatitudes. Each beatitude begins with the words "Blessed are . . ." Recall by memory three beatitudes.
 8. "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment,' but I say to you . . ." What was this new commandment of Jesus that went beyond the injunction not to murder?
 9. "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery,' but I tell you . . ." What was this new commandment of Jesus that went beyond the requirement not to commit adultery?
- In Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus teaches his disciples *The Lord's Prayer*. After Jesus teaches his disciples this prayer he returns to one particular theme in that prayer. What is the theme he returns to emphasize?

1. A genealogy from Abraham to Jesus Christ, 2. "all Jerusalem" (2:3), 3. John the Baptist (3:1-2), 4. "the Spirit" (4:1), 5. Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:16; and 6:13, 6. The Sermon on the Mount, 7. Mt 5:1-11, 8. "that any one who is angry with his (or her) brother (or sister) will be subject to judgment." (5:22), 9. "that any one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery." (5:28), 10. Forgiveness, (6:14-15).



A Presbytery-wide Celebratory Worship Service in Mike Orr's honor

First Presbyterian Church of Springfield
February 25, 2007- 4:00 p.m.
reception to follow



Give and Go Mission: Celebrating Mike Orr's Call

Every person . . . every one of us, has the opportunity to play an integral part in the world and in the body of Christ — whether one imagines the body of Christ as a team, a machine, or as a dance. Mike Orr has said that *My vision can be summed up in a basketball term; “give and go.” Our focus must be on mission, but it must be structured so that some of us can physically “go” dig wells in Africa while some of us can “give” financial support, encouragement, etc. A Give and Go Mission Ministry — Won't mean much to some, but old basketball players will get it, and most importantly, I get it.*

Springfieldians have known Mike Orr as a hardworking professional at Horace Mann, where he worked for 29 years. Long time members of First Presbyterian Church also know him as one who has served as Deacon, Elder, and Clerk of Session. Those newer to First Presbyterian Church know him as “Mike, Assistant to the Pastor.” Mike Orr is one involved in all aspects of church programs and services, one who connects us to our kindred Christian family in all denominations and across all borders . . . with great insight into the meaning of agape.

Mike's most recent call has led him to serve as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Great Rivers and Interim Associate Executive Presbyter. Though the Presbytery has already installed Mike in his new position, we at First Presbyterian Church wish to offer our blessings and congratulations as well as to charge him with and support him in this new mission. On Sunday, February 25, we invite you to celebrate Mike Orr's mission commitment with a service of worship.

Children and

YOUTH GATHERINGS...

Parent's Mark Your Calendars!

February 10,: It's a Valentine's Parent's Evening Out! Bring your children to church from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. for dinner and fun activities.

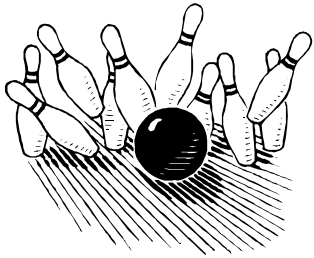
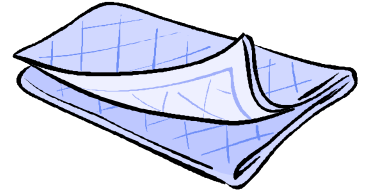
If you plan on taking advantage of a quiet evening out, please R.S.V.P. with Shannon by February 8, (528-4311 or Shannon@lincolnschurch.org)



CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS! Let's get together and work on a mission project!! We'll be making blankets for the homeless to aid in the effort to keep them warm this winter.

We'll have fun and snacks at the same time. The meeting place will be Shannon's office at church (come see Selena's handwork if you haven't already!).

The date is February 11, at 6:00 p.m. See you then!



Youth pre-K through 5th grade are invited to go out for a meal and bowling on *February 18*. We'll leave church at 12:30 p.m. and return to church for parent pick up at 4:00 p.m. If possible, please send \$5.00 per child for this event. Please, R.S.V.P. to Shannon, 528-4311 or Shannon@lincolnschurch.org by Thursday, February 15, if your children plan to participate!

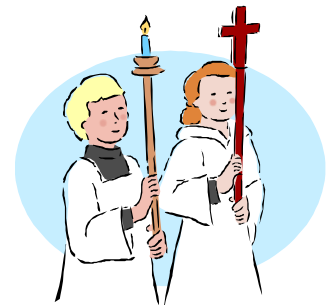
YOUTH NEWS...

If your youth has any news to share, please let us know! This could include school and personal achievements. Each of our youth is important and unique and we would love to hear how their God given gifts are being put to use! Call Shannon at church or e-mail Shannon@lincolnschurch.org to report updates.

YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES...

The **acolyte ministry** is in need of acolytes for February and March. If your youth is interested in signing up for a Sunday, please see Shannon after church or call her at church. This is an opportunity for our youth to participate in an important aspect of worship. If your youth would like to participate and needs training, we can begin including them in the ministry in a timely manner.

Youth of any age are encouraged to read the **Prayer of Thanksgiving** in worship. If your youth is interested in participating in worship in this manner, please see Shannon after church or call her at church.



Lenten Retreat

A Lenten Retreat will be held on Saturday, February 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at La Casa at Jubilee Farm west of Springfield on Old Jacksonville Road. The theme will be "Discerning God's Will--for Self and Community." Sr. Melanie Roetker will be the leader. First Pres members, friends and visitors are invited. A \$10 contribution is requested. Call the church, 528-4311, by Feb. 20 to make reservations.

Pension

In August Congress enacted the Pension Protection

Act of 2006. The act contains a number of provisions relating to charitable contributions. Of particular interest, it allows tax-free distributions from IRAs for charitable purposes. IRA owners who are at least age 70½ may be able to make tax-free distributions of up to \$100,000 from a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA to a tax-exempt church or charity. This change may be of interest to individuals who do not itemize on their tax return or whose charitable deductions have reached the maximum. Please ask your tax advisor if making charitable contributions through your IRA is right for you.

A Neighbor's Independence Depends on You!

Caregiver Interfaith Volunteer Services (CIVS) is a network of religious congregations and community agencies that, through groups of trained volunteers, assist older adults with:

- * Transportation to medical appointments
- * Grocery shopping or errands
- * Minor home repair
- * Respite care - relieving a primary caregiver up to 2-4 hours a week
- * Friendly visits

If you are interested in using this service or volunteering, call CIVS at 757-6621. These services are available free of charge in the Springfield, Chatham and Rochester communities. Volunteers do not transport wheelchairs or perform personal care services.

February 2007 Birthdays

- 1 Eric Linderman
- 3 June Greer
- 5 Callie Akers, Dale Roberts
Dolores Slusser, Wayne Temple
Roy Wehrle
- 7 Michael Steele
- 8 Beverly Shelby
- 10 Alice Carpenter
- 11 Lillie Anderson, Doug Slater, Duane Slater, Joan Struck
- 13 Lou VonBehren
- 14 Alexandra Davidson
- 15 Beth Cappellin
- 16 Jane Turner
- 17 Ginny Sanert, Harvey B. Stephens, Emma Stuebs
- 18 Gerry Graff, Jonathan Hayes
- 20 Clark McKee
- 21 Helen Shears
- 22 Bette Rogers, Lucian Taylor
- 23 Terry Haynor, Sandra Yedinak
- 24 Joyce Horney
- 25 Harvey M. Stephens, Tim Forman
- 27 Charles Chapin, Lynn Raynolds



Members of the Health and Healing Team are:

Barb Murphy, LuAnn Atkins, Barb Olson, Susan Enlow, Carol Harden, Riitta Anderson, Linda Wheal, Sharon Bilotti, Barb VonBehren.



LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY 2007

- 4th: Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11
Luke 5: 1-11
- 11th: Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20
Luke 6: 17-26
- 18th: Exodus 34: 29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2
Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43)
- 25th: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11; Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16
Romans 10: 8b-13; Luke 4: 1-13

The Food Pantry Ministry

Please get your imaginations ready. Now, think of a stool. This stool represents the base of the First Presbyterian Food Pantry.

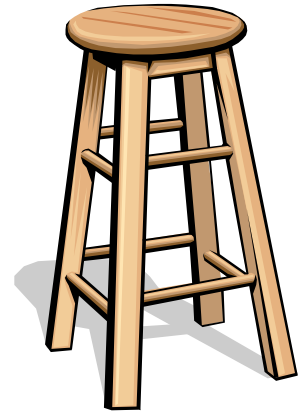
The seat becomes the support for the needy. The legs become the support of our church.

Leg One signifies God, who provides the spiritual support to the needy and those who provide help.

Leg Two becomes the congregation who provide funding and food on a regular basis.

Leg Three becomes the Board of Deacons who provide financial and operational management.

Leg Four becomes the volunteers who purchase the food, place it on the pantry shelves, and make the distributions to the needy.



For the month of February, please imagine and make real the needs of our food pantry. Together, we will build a helpful effect. **Spam is high on our list of needs.** Also, please consider donating Chili, Peanut Butter, Spaghetti and Meat Balls, and Ravioli. These are high demand items for the food pantry. Don't forget, our pantry is also blessed with your generous support of donations to the Deacon's fund. In December of 2006 the Food Pantry served 253 Adults, 151 Children, and 155 sack lunches. In the year 2006, the food pantry served 2678 adults, 1480 children, and 1965 brown bag lunches. That is a considerable 6123 served! The Deacons and Food Bank Volunteers thank the First Presbyterian congregation for your generosity and the good you give to the Food Pantry Ministry.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN HELPS ORGANIZE THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

On Wednesday, January 10th, volunteers with the SOS (Springfield Overflow Shelter) talked with Don Carlson, Executive Director, and an organizer, with the Central Illinois Organizing Project about helping homeless people organize to get their views heard on the issue of homelessness in Springfield. CIOP has been organizing on evening bus service.

Don gave us some advice on what to do in the next couple of weeks to find out how our guests at SOS and Helping Hands feel about it. Other folks are talking to the people at the library. Carlson pointed out that the homeless people themselves have to make the decision. Advocates can work with them but not for them. We feel it would be helpful to hear from homeless people because they know things that we don't and their input could help social services, volunteers, and the homelessness task force find some short-term and long-term solutions to the crisis that faces us. The situation at the library is getting more difficult for the library and its patrons and its neighbors. It's also difficult for the homeless people camped out there because they see no satisfactory solution. The SOS will close March 31 and must leave the Contact Ministries building. There are some very good proposals at the Task Force on Homelessness that would help solve this shelter problem, but they will not happen quickly.

During the next two weeks, each of us is going to try to get to know a couple of people better who have experienced homelessness in some form or other, asking them, "What would you like to see in your world?" "What sorts of things might help people who have experienced homelessness gain more influence and power over their world?" They will also be encouraged to come to the next meeting at Helping Hands, Wednesday, January 24th at 2pm. We may need to vary meeting sites to encourage people.

The 2007 Stewardship Drive is still open and seeking your help. As of January 12th, we still have 26 members who pledged last year that have not let us know their intentions for 2007. We are also \$48,897.00 short of our goal of \$312,730.00.

We thank those of you who have responded. We hope to make our goal or at least come closer than our last figures show at this time. We would appreciate hearing from all who have not yet pledged. We wish to wrap up and close out this years drive by the end of February.

Stewardship Chairs:

Clark and Kay McKee and Dan and June Greer



Kid's Fun Time

Books Of The Bible

GENESIS	MARK	PSALMS
JOB	LUKE	PROVERBS
MATTHEW	JOHN	EXODUS

G	E	N	E	S	I	S	P
M	A	R	K	R	J	L	R
A	I	O	P	H	O	U	O
T	F	T	S	U	H	K	V
T	T	A	A	M	N	E	E
H	S	H	L	M	P	L	R
E	H	E	M	P	J	O	B
W	O	N	S	A	C	T	S
E	X	O	D	U	S	R	D



Help Joseph find his coat of many colors.

All activities take place in the church unless otherwise noted

February 2007

1*THURSDAY

12:00 a.m. - Personnel Committee
5:30 p.m. - Yoga Class
7:00 p.m. - Deacons

2*FRIDAY

7:30 p.m. - WUIS Young Musician Concert

4*SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens
9:00 a.m. - Adult Programming
10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour

5*MONDAY

1:30 p.m. - Building & Grounds Committee

6*TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study Section II

7*WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service
6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering
 - Christian Nurture Committee
6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group
 - Film Club
7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 - Friends of the Sangamon Valley Board

8*THURSDAY

5:30 p.m. - Yoga Class
7:00 p.m. - Mission Committee @ Sally Robinson Home

10*SATURDAY

6:00 p.m. - Second Saturday Supper Club
 - Valentine Parent's Evening Out

11*SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens
9:00 a.m. - Adult Programming
 - Children's Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour
6:00 p.m. - High Schooler's Mission Project

12*MONDAY

Church and Office closed for Lincoln's Birthday

13*TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study Section II

14*WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service
6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering
6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group
 - Film Club
7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

15*THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. - Session

16*FRIDAY

9:30 a.m. - Fairhills Circle @ Presbyterian Home

18*SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens
9:00 a.m. - Adult Programming
 - Children's Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour
12:30 p.m. - Youth Bowling and a Meal Outing

20*TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study Section II

21*WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering
7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service

22*THURSDAY

5:30 p.m. - Yoga Class

23*FRIDAY

7:30 p.m. - Jay Peterson Organ Recital

24*SATURDAY

9:00 a.m. - Lenten Retreat @ Jubilee Farm
8:00 p.m. - Classical Guitar Society

25*SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens
9:00 a.m. - Adult Programming
 - Children's Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour
4:00 p.m. - Mike Orr Celebratory Worship Service

27*TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study Section II

28*WEDNESDAY

12:15 p.m. - Lenten Brown Bag Recital
5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service
6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering
6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group
 - Film Club
7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal