

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
321 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS 62701

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

UPDATE

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

June 2007

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.lincolnschurch.org

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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

ALL CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE
Friday and Saturday, June 8th and 9th.
Hours: Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to Noon

**WE STILL NEED YOU GOOD AND SLIGHTLY USED DONATIONS
(NO CLOTHING PLEASE)**

A Congregational Preview night will be held on Wednesday, June 6, at 6:00 p.m.
If you are able to help out at the sale on Friday or Saturday, please contact Kay
McKee at 529-9755.

ALL CHURCH PICNIC

On Sunday, June 3, The Office of Youth and Family Ministries invites the First Presbyterian Church family and the New Mission Church of God to join us at the Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area in Cass County for an afternoon of fellowship, canoeing, fishing, cooking out and other outdoors pursuits. First Presbyterian Church already has reserved a large picnic shelter with fireplace on Prairie Lake, the largest of three manmade lakes at Jim Edgar. Canoes also have been reserved and life jackets and instruction will be provided.

Families are asked to bring a picnic dish to share. If your last name begins with:

A-L bring a side dish

M-Z bring a dessert

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided.

A caravan will leave from church after the Sunday service to go to Jim Edgar. We will begin eating at 1 p.m. Maps will be provided for those who are going on their own.
Please talk to Shannon or Chris if you are interested in attending or are willing to help cook, keep an eye on kids or help with fishing or other activities. This will be an exciting event in a picturesque setting. We look forward to seeing you there.

CASUAL SUNDAY!!

Please feel free to dress in your casual picnic wear for worship on Sunday, June 3. We'll be attending the church picnic afterward and would like everyone to dress for comfort!

Hidden in Plain Sight

A brother and sister received an urgent telegram from their minister telling them that a relative had died and had left them some valuable property. They were to contact their minister for details. Excited they immediately rushed to the church whereupon the pastor informed them that the relative was Moses and the valuable property was the Judea-Christian tradition. Disappointed that their legacy was not real estate they turned aside from the gift.

It is and has always been difficult to separate that which has true value from that which is temporary. It is difficult, because the world is so noisy. The world – no, Springfield is filled with distractions. To complicate matters – we are dazzled by power, success, and beauty. And yet we keep looking and searching, because we know that deep within us there is a great need; deep within us is a spiritual longing.

We try to fill this vacuum . . . by immersing ourselves in our work, hoping that this will satisfy us . . . by focusing on the family, feeling that somehow this must be our first concern.

A story may be instructive here.

The members of a certain West African tribe tell the legend of the Sky Maiden. It happened once that the people of the tribe noticed their cows were giving less milk than usual. They could not understand why. One young man volunteered to stay up all night to see what might be happening. After several hours of waiting in the darkness, hiding in a bush, he saw something quite extraordinary. A young woman of astonishing beauty rode a moonbeam down from heaven to earth, carrying a large pail. She milked the cows, filled her pail, and rode the moon beam up into the sky. The man could not believe what he had seen. The next night he set a trap. When the maiden came down to milk the cows, he sprang the trap and caught her. “Who are you?” he demanded.

She explained that she was a Sky Maiden, a member of a tribe that lived in the sky and had no food of their own. It was her job to come to earth and find food. She pleaded with him to let her out of the net. She would do anything he asked. The man said he would release her only if she agreed to marry him. “I will marry you,” she said, “but first you must let me go home for three days to prepare myself. Then I will return and be your wife.” He agreed.

Three days later she returned, carrying a large box. “I will be your wife and make you very happy,” she told him, “but you must promise me never to look inside this box.”

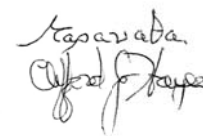
For some time they were very happy together. Then one day while his wife was out, the man was overcome with curiosity and opened the box. There was nothing in it. When the woman came back, she saw her husband looking strangely at her and said, “You looked in the box, didn’t you? I cannot live with you any more.”

“Why?” the man asked. “What’s so terrible about my seeing an empty box?”

“I’m not leaving you because you opened the box,” she said. “I thought you probably would. I’m leaving you because you said it was empty. It was not empty. It was full of sky. It contains the light and the air and the smells of my home in the sky. When I went home for the last time, I filled that box with everything that was most precious to me to remind me of where I came from. How can I be your wife if what is most precious to me is emptiness to you?”

What is important to us, indeed what is urgent and vital is right before our eyes. We breathe it in all of the time. Its sight to us is quite usual. It is the revelation that has come to us from God, in Jesus Christ. It is as common to us as the church on the street corner – Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist, Disciples – and these are only the churches within a two block area. How much more ordinary can you get than that?

On Pentecost the church of Jesus Christ was born. It is your inheritance. God invites you to treasure it the way God treasures you.



On behalf the Office of the Youth and Family Ministries,
we would like to thank **all of the volunteers** who worked
tirelessly to help us celebrate First Presbyterian's first
U2 Eucharist.

A special thank you to the Stephen, Watson, and Cunningham families for
organizing an exciting reception that was thoroughly enjoyed
by both members and guests after the service.

We have deep appreciation for the endless hours Pam Hayes put into
our advertising campaign and in making the beautiful banners
during W.I.L.D. Wednesday's. Her time and effort made
the first U2 Eucharist a day to remember!

Lastly, but not less importantly, a thank you to Chris Wheal for
running our sound system during the service. Coming in for
extra rehearsals was very much appreciated and helped
the service run extremely smooth.

Notes from the Food Pantry

Since there was no report from the pantry last month, this will catch you up on what is happening in the food pantry. In March the pantry served 261 adults, 124 children, 153 sack lunches and received 355 food items plus monetary donations!

In April the food pantry served 297 adults, 139 children, and 187 sack lunches. We received 162 items from congregation donations on April. Thank you for your continued support and please don't forget the pantry over the summer. Schools out and that means an increased demand on the pantry.

Dear Congregation of First Pres:

Ron and I are happy to be installed, if not settled, in our new home in Arizona. Ron is working in Las Vegas, where he is assistant director of Clark County Family Services, and commutes home (it's just an hour's flight) to Phoenix on weekends. I'm membership/marketing director at the Maricopa County Bar Association, which is almost exactly the same job I had at the Illinois State Bar.

My commute to work is wearing (especially in a 5-speed Civic), but at least it's scenic. So far, we've been too busy to miss our former lives, but I do think of you often—especially on Sundays. Our church here will be Mountain View Presbyterian. It's a nice enough church—and close by—but relatively new and does not sport a presidential pew, a dove window, Rudy on the Brombaugh organ, or most important, your always friendly and familiar faces!

If any of you come this way, we would be happy to welcome you to the Valley. Just let us know.

Ron & Isolde Davidson
9243 E. Windrose Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
480-661-1575
isoldedavidson@yahoo.com

Children and

Up-coming youth and family events-Mark your calendars!

COMMENCEMENT SUNDAY

If your youth is making a significant move in their education (graduating to high school, from high school, from college, etc.) please let the Office of Youth and Family Ministries know. We would like to recognize the accomplishments of these youth in a special service on **June 3**. We'll celebrate during our All Church Picnic!

WE'LL TAKE YOU OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

Youth grades 5th-High school are meeting **Friday, June 15** to watch the Peoria Chiefs take on the Clinton Lumberkings! We'll meet at church at 5 p.m. to travel to Peoria for the 7 p.m. game. We should return back to church by 10:30 p.m.

Please, see Shannon or call the church if you'd like to participate. Permission forms must be filled out before leaving church.

SPRING SPY EVENT PLANNED

Springfield Presbyterian Youth will be heading to the ball field together to watch the St. Louis Cardinals take on the Philadelphia Phillies on **Saturday, June 23**. We'll meet at Westminster Presbyterian (533 S. Walnut) at 1 p.m. The estimated return time is 10:30 p.m. **Cost per person is: \$35**, plus food during the ballgame. The cost includes your ticket, charter coach to/from the game, and entry into the MercyMe concert after the game.

Your reservation is due to Shannon by June 7th!! Please call her with your reservation today!

Office of Youth and Family ministries contact information:

Shannon Yost or Chris Young
528-4311 or

shannon@lincolnschurch.org/chris@lincolnschurch.org

LET'S HAVE A WEEK LONG FIESTA!

All youth ages Preschool-6th grade are invited to participate in Vacation Bible School in partnership with Hope Presbyterian Church. We'll be having a Fiesta! the week of June 18th-22nd from 6:00 p.m.-8:45 p.m.

Meet at Hope Presbyterian (2211 Wabash Ave., Springfield) to do Cactus Crafts, help fix Maraca Munchies, and learn about the love of Jesus in Hot Bible Adventures!!

Pre-register with Shannon now or register on Sunday, June 10th in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour.

We need 7th grade-high school youth to participate in VBS as crew leaders. If you'd be willing to lead a pack of Fiesta friendly kids through their rotations, please let Shannon know.

All adults are encouraged to participate as well. **VBS can not work without your help!** We need a teacher for Maraca Munchies. If you have an interest in working with kids, cooking, and sharing the love for Jesus, then you will love Maraca Munchies! We also need volunteers to man the registration table and to help with each class. We would love to see the faces of First Presbyterian Church at Hope Presbyterian this year.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



1 Jonathan Orr Carolyn Oxtoby Eric Sanders	7 Cheryl Linderman	18 Stephen Beverly Max Heflin Jean Risku	27 Shirley Fenstermaker
2 Michel Morse	9 Ellen Linderman	20 Lois Korda Judy Ruff	30 Susan Enlow
3 Margery Doyle Susie Risku	11 Byron Luers Jr. Chris Patton	21 Steven Korda Margaret Younkin	
4 Dana Furry Charles Northrup Jennifer Schwermin	14 Maxwell Hart-Wottowa	22 Caroline Haynor Cassie Riech	
6 Beatrice Amoako Richard Sorensen Alexis Standridge James Turner Kaylyn Yakel	15 Victor Linderman Jan Neal	24 Mary Beth Stephens	
	16 Scott Raynolds	26 Kathi Eads	
	17 Phyllis Beverly		



**You are cordially invited to participate in the celebration of the
 175th Anniversary of**
First Presbyterian Church
300 S. Church Street
Green Valley, J.L. 61534
Sunday, June 10, 2007—2:00 p.m.

A Reception will Follow

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
JUNE 2007**

3rd: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5
 John 16:12-15

10th: 1 Kings 17:8-16 (17-24); Psalm 146; Galatians 1:11-24
 Luke 7:11-17

17th: 1 Kings 21:1-10 (11-14) 15-21a; Psalm 5:1-8;
 Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36—8:3

24th: 1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15a; Psalm 42 and 43
 Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

HABITAT HIGHLIGHTS

Since 1994, First Presbyterian Church has joined eleven partnerships to build Habitat for Humanity homes through Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County (“... *thy kingdom come, on earth, as it is in heaven.* . . .”) where low income families purchase homes with no interest mortgages (“... *forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.* . . .”). Three years ago, our church joined with many youth groups in the area (“*Our father, who art in heaven.* . . .”) to sponsor the first all youth build, involving young people, ages 5 to 25, in both the planning and the construction of a Habitat home.

Last year, a deeply dedicated group of young people planned and built their third beautiful home in the Habitat for Humanity subdivision off of Park Street. Young people built the first, seventh, and final home in this subdivision, which now houses eleven families. This year, young people will be building another three-bedroom home with Michelle Bates and her seven-year-old son Colton. Many area colleges, high schools, junior high schools, and churches are represented on these builds.

A record number of youth from First Church have volunteered to fill leadership roles this year including Bennett Stephens who is serving as a Co-coordinator of the Construction Committee, Lillie Anderson and Tanisha Force who are serving as Co-coordinators of the Food Committee (adult church members can expect to hear from them for help with food), and Emma Frederick who is serving as Coordinator of the Kids Program Committee.

Many adults with ties to First Church have also volunteered over the years to help nurture the young people on these builds. Adults involved in the build this year include Mary Beth Stephens, Duane Slater, Tim Koschmann, Greg Krutsinger, Terry Finney, Jim Enlow, and Don Ecklund. Of course, many many more church members continue to serve in the extremely important supportive roles in Habitat builds such as providing delicious food for the volunteers (“... *give us this day our daily bread.* . . .”).

Anyone interested in volunteering for the construction phase of the build, which takes place between July 26 and November 11, is encouraged to pick up a volunteer form at church. After the first two blitz weekends (Friday and Saturday), the rest of the work on this home will be completed on Saturdays. The Kickoff of the build will be Thursday, July 26, 7:00 p.m., Springfield Church of Christ and the Dedication and Shower will be Sunday, November 11, 2:00 p.m., at the newly finished home in Grandview (2230 E Enterprise St.). Anyone interested in getting involved in the planning phase of the build or wishing further information should contact Don Ecklund (787-7810).

U-2 Can Make Swedish Meatballs

Ingredients

2 lbs ground beef (not lean)
1 lb ground pork
½ cup finely chopped onion
4 slices of bread (not too dense)
1 T salt
2 eggs
½ t pepper
1 T sugar
½ t allspice
enough milk to dissolve bread

Directions

Cut bread in cubes and soak in milk (use a fork and stir hard until the bread pieces turn to mush).

Add the rest of the ingredients and mix thoroughly (I use my hands) until they are thoroughly mixed. Form small balls (about 1” in diameter) and brown in a skillet (medium heat seems to work best) on all sides using a little olive oil initially so the first ones do not stick to the pan. They flatten out some and need browning on about three sides. Remove to a baking dish as they finish browning. After browning is complete, add a small amount of water to the drippings in the skillet, boil, and then pour over the meatballs.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes with cover on baking dish.

June Ecklund's (Don's mother) receipt

The Ant and the Contact Lens

A true story by Josh and Karen Zaradona

Submitted by Susie Risku

Brenda was a young woman who was invited to go rock climbing. Although she was scared to death, she went with her group to a tremendous granite cliff. In spite of her fear, she put on the gear, took a hold on the rope, and started up the face of the rock.

Well, she got to a ledge where she could take a breather. As she was hanging there, the safety rope snapped against Brenda's eye and knocked out her contact lens. Well, here she is on a rock ledge, with hundreds of feet below her and hundreds of feet above her.

Of course, she looked and looked and looked, hoping it had landed on the ledge, but it just wasn't there. Here she was, far from home, her sight now blurry. She was desperate and began to get upset, so she prayed to the Lord to help her find it.

When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but there was no contact lens to be found. She sat down, despondent, with the rest of the party, waiting for the rest of them to make it up the face of the cliff.

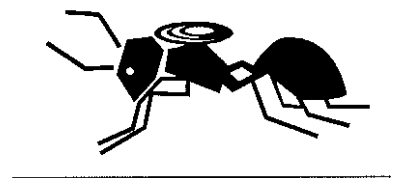
She looked out across range after range of mountains, thinking of that bible verse that says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth." She thought, "Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me."

Finally, they walked down the trail to the bottom. At the bottom there was a new party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted, "Hey, you guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?" Well, that would be startling enough, but you know why the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across the face of the rock, carrying it.

From the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens, he drew a picture of an ant lugging that contact lens with these words, "Lord, I don't know why you want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what you want me to do, I'll carry it for You."

I think it would probably do some of us good to occasionally say, "God, I don't know why you want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy. But, if you want me to carry it, I will."

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called. Yes I do love God. He is my source of my existence and my Savior. He keeps me functioning each and every day. "Without Him, I am nothing, but with Him I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
(Phil 4:13)



All activities take place in the church unless otherwise noted

June 2007

1*FRIDAY

5:00 p.m. - Troxell/Wade Wedding Rehearsal

2*SATURDAY

4:00 p.m. - Troxell/Wade Wedding

3*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. - All Church Picnic @ Jim Edgar Park

4*MONDAY

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

5*TUESDAY

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

10:00 a.m. - Elder Hostel

6*WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service

6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering

- Congregational Rummage Sale Preview

6:30 p.m - First Pres Knitting Group

- Film Club

7:00 p.m. - Friends of the Sangamon Valley Board

7*THURSDAY

4:30 p.m. - Personnel Committee

7:00 p.m. - Deacons

8*FRIDAY

8:30 a.m. - All Church Rummage Sale

9*SATURDAY

8:30 a.m. - All Church Rummage Sale

6:00 p.m. - Second Saturday Supper Club

10*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*TUESDAY

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

13*WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service

6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering

6:30 p.m - First Pres Knitting Group

- Film Club

15*FRIDAY

Presbytery Night at the Ball Park

16*SATURDAY

10:00 a.m. - Priscilla Lost & Found Training & Orientation

17*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

18*MONDAY

7:00 p.m. - Faith Circle

6:00 p.m. - VBS @ Hope Presbyterian

19*TUESDAY

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

6:00 p.m. - VBS @ Hope Presbyterian

20*WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service

6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering

- VBS @ Hope Presbyterian

6:30 p.m - First Pres Knitting Group

- Film Club

21*THURSDAY

6:00 p.m. - Computer Banc Orientation

- VBS @ Hope Presbyterian

7:00 p.m. - Session

22*FRIDAY

6:00 p.m. - VBS @ Hope Presbyterian

24*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

26*TUESDAY

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

11:30 a.m. - Christian Nurture Committee

27*WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service

6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering

6:30 p.m - First Pres Knitting Group

- Film Club

29*FRIDAY

5:30 p.m. - Hill/Gierich Wedding Rehearsal

30*SATURDAY

4:00 p.m. - Hill/Gierich Wedding