

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 2008

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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:**  
8:15 a.m. – Chapel Worship Service  
9:00 a.m. - Adult Education Programs  
10:30 a.m. - Worship  
**Wednesdays**  
5:30 p.m. Vespers  
6:00 p.m. Potluck and activities

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

### Celebrating Fifty Years Ordained The Reverend Dr. David MacDonna, Jr.

First Presbyterian Church is celebrating the fiftieth year of ordination of The Reverend Dr. David MacDonna, Jr. On Sunday, June 8 at 10:30 a.m. the gathered community of worship will give thanks to God for David and Carolyn . . . for their deep faith . . . for their love for Jesus Christ . . . for their kindness and good humor . . . for their many years of service to The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The Reverend Leah Bradley, Director of Alumni & Church Relations at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, will be delivering the message – “Good Ground,” and Paul D. MacDonna will preach – “The Shortest Sermon.” Dr. Rudolf Zuiderveld and classical guitarist, Russell Brazzel, will offer special music. Shared stories of love from family, friends, and colleagues will be given.

You are invited to this celebratory event, and we would like you to share your memories of love during a luncheon that will follow the service of worship.

### Lectionary for June 2008

1<sup>st</sup>: Genesis 6:9-22, 7:24, 8:14-19; Psalm 46; Romans 1:16-17, 3:22b-28 (29-31); Matthew 7:21-29  
8<sup>th</sup>: Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26  
15<sup>th</sup>: Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7); Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35 – 10:8 (9-23)  
22<sup>nd</sup>: Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39  
29<sup>th</sup>: Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42



## **Rainforest Adventure-VBS 2008**

First Presbyterian Church will be partnering with Hope Presbyterian once again for Vacation Bible School. Beginning June 16<sup>th</sup> through June 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be having VBS at First Presbyterian Church from 6:00-8:30 p.m. A light meal will be served each evening to the youth in attendance.

Youth Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to come and join us for a Rainforest Adventure. The Education wing will be transformed into a rainforest for all to journey through while learning about the Bible. Activities offered include crafts, games, storytelling and science.

Church members should have received registration forms in the mail by now. If you did not receive one or need more, please visit our website: [www.lincolnschurch.org](http://www.lincolnschurch.org) for a printable form or see Chris.

Volunteers are still needed. Please see Chris if you are able to donate any of your time to this ministry.

The Office of Youth and Family Ministries would like to thank all the volunteers that gave their time and talents to the fourth U2 Eucharist service and reception. The service and reception would not have been such a triumphant event without you. We hope to see you all at our next service!

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### **Early Worship Service to Resume**

The 8:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service will resume on Sunday, June 1, at will continue through Sunday, August 31. The early service is held in the Chapel.

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## THIS - N - THAT

### **Habitat Highlights**

Since 1994, First Presbyterian Church has joined twelve partnerships to build Habitat for Humanity homes through Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County where low income families purchase homes with no interest mortgages. Three years ago, our church joined with many youth groups in the area 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 three-bedroom home. This year, young people will be building another three-bedroom home with Brandon and Jessica Williams and their three children, Colton (5), Connor (3), and Sarah (1) in the 2200 block of East Enterprise in Grandview. Many area colleges, high schools, junior high schools, and churches are represented on these builds.

Emma Frederick is once again serving as Coordinator of the Kids Program. If you would like to involve any children in your family between the ages of 5 and 12, contact her (801-3211). Last year, kids in this age range served on the Steering Committee, painted the large on-site sign, made and served food to the volunteers, and created a banner for the Dedication Ceremony. This year, we hope to also involve kids in our ambitious fund-raising activities where the young people have committed to raising at least \$10,000. There are still some openings on the Steering Committee for youths between ages 5 and 25. Contact Don Ecklund (787-7810) if you want to sign-up.

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 Jeri Frederick, 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.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the construction phase of the build, which takes place between July 24 and November 9, 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 24, 7:00 p.m. and the Dedication and Shower will be Sunday, November 9, 2:00 p.m. Both of these events will be in Grandview (2200 E Enterprise St.) where the home is being built. Anyone interested in getting involved in the planning phase of the build or wishing further information should contact Don Ecklund (787-7810).

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### **News Alert ---National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization ...May 2008**

Hospice is a cost effective and compassionate health care delivery system for the terminally ill. A recent independent Duke University study clearly demonstrated that on average hospice saves Medicare more than \$2,300 per patient and goes on to say, "Given that hospice has been widely demonstrated to improve quality of life of patients and family members...the Medicare program appears to have a rare situation whereby something that improves quality of life also appears to reduce costs."

The Administration's budget package to Congress specifically asked for drastic cuts in hospice reimbursement rates. Taken together the two approaches: changes in Rules and Legislation, would cut rates in excess of 15 %. Further, use of Rulemaking, would by-pass Congress altogether and further cut hospice rates by more than \$2 billion.

In the past Congress has been supportive of the high quality care delivered by hospices and has protected the rate structure. But, in this instance, the administration is trying to accomplish by rule making what it hasn't been able to do by legislation.

Hospice programs rely on Medicare for a disproportionate share of their revenues, totaling 80-85%. Given the patient population that hospice serves, this is understandable, but cutting rates by billions of dollars would reduce the resources available to continue providing this necessary care.

Springfield is very lucky to have two excellent programs: Memorial Home Services Hospice and St. John's Hospice. It is imperative that each hospice mobilizes people to write, call, email your federal representatives to oppose the budget package and even more to block the rule making effort to cut hospice rates. To support these programs, please contact your Congressional Representative and both Senators.

Materials provided by Memorial Home Services. Jane Running

## **CUBA: A Second Look-April 08**

Since the last visit (two years ago) by a delegation from the First Presbyterian Church, a second delegation traveled to our sister Presbyterian Church in Sancti Spiritus, Cuba. Yes, many things are the same with Cuban society: their wonderful hospitality, their proud practice of religious worship, the infatuation with baseball, the pockets of poverty, the high number of cars in the 1950's and 1960's, and the happiness /resourcefulness of the people.

Ever so slightly, some changes are occurring in Cuba. We noticed the following:

More western development as a result of investment and tourism from Canada, England, Germany, China, and France.

More infrastructure improvements on roads, buildings, and sidewalks.

Better public transportation (fewer "camel" buses loaded on flatbed trucks and more recently purchased buses).

Private ownership of property for home owners

More western style clothes, music, and electronic gadgetry

Fewer autos on the streets (yes they are feeling the high cost of gas too!)

The delegation was treated with respect and absorbed the Cuban kindness. In other articles, highlights of the trip will be shared about our experiences visiting the homes of their Presbyterian parishioners, touring of historic homes in Sancti Spiritus, viewing an organic farm and pottery shop owned by the Church, worshipping at the seminary in Matanzas, conversing with other Presbyterian pastors, meeting with the Cuban Council of Churches, and experiencing the sights of Havana (i.e. Old State Capitol, Old Havana Town, historic forts.)

You need to go to Cuba. Paul Graebel did. In 1960, he traveled to Cuba. Later, more on his tour and the tour of our recent delegation!

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## **A Bit of Cuba for Presbyterians**

Did you know that 70% of all programs in the Cuban Council of Churches are administered by Presbyterians.

The programs are:

Community Life and Health

Pastoral for the Disabled

Ecclesiastical Infrastructure Program

Emergency and Humanitarian Help

Christian Education Program

Women's Program

Youth Program

Liturgical Renovation Program

Biblical Commission

Program of Ecumenism and Mission

Program of International Relations

Program of Digital and Audiovisual Means

Mass Media Program

Publishing Program

Library Program

Cuba is divided into five geographic areas by the Cuban Council of Churches for the implementation of these programs.

# June Birthdays

**1**

Jonathan Orr  
Carolyn Oxtoby  
Eric Sanders

**2**

Michel Morse

**3**

Margery Doyle  
Susie Risku

**4**

Jennifer Canny  
Dana Furry  
Charles Northrup

**5**

Amy Taylor

**6**

Richard Sorensen  
Alexis Standridge  
James Turner

**7**

Cheryl Linderman

**9**

Ellen Linderman

**11**

Byron Luers, Jr.  
Chris Patton

**15**

Victor Linderman  
Jan Neal

**16**

Scott Raynolds

**17**

Phyllis Beverly

**18**

Steven Beverly  
Max Heflin  
Jean Risku

**20**

Lois Korda  
Judy Ruff

**21**

Steven Korda  
Margaret Younkin

**22**

Caroline Haynor  
Cassie Riech

**24**

Mary Beth Stephens

**26**

Kathi Eads

**27**

Shirley Fenstermaker

**28**

Janet MacGregor

**30**

Susan Enlow

## You Will All Be Missed...

Dear First Presbyterian Members:

I wanted to say one last "Thank You" to everyone at First Presbyterian for a memorable experience working with your youth and families. My time spent at First Presbyterian will always remain etched in my heart. I couldn't have asked for a more welcoming and kind church family for me and my children for the past couple of years. I have been blessed by God.

Warmest regards,

Shannon Yost

## I Am a Downtown Church

I am a downtown church. I am dedicated to the Glory of God, the love of Christ and the Communion of the Holy Spirit.

I have an honorable history. For almost 250 years the people of God have gathered to hear the proclamation of the Gospel, to learn of God's truth and to receive the Sacraments. Around the Holy Scriptures and the Holy Table the living Word of the Word of the living God became known to them through faith in Jesus Christ.

From the pulpit and the Holy Table, the people of God went out into every area of the city to bear witness to Jesus Christ as Lord of all life. In politics and economics, in trade and commerce, in business and government, in art and education, in law and justice, in war and peace, this people of God proved loyal, faithful and devoted. They were called upon to sacrifice much and without hesitation. They proved their faith and found their life in God.

Yes, I am an old Church. I have heard strong men weep and great women sing. In my nurture young people have found vision and vocation, children have learned how to weave love from God into their life. Through every change of neighborhood, and through every change in the world beyond, I have borne witness to God who never changes and to His steadfast love.

I live in the very heart of the city. I listen to the beat of human souls. My work is not to a little section of the city, or to a small group within the city. My heart and hand reach out to embrace the entire area and all the people. I admit to no distinction in class, color or condition. I recognize no barriers to God's love and our fellowship in Him. I am particularly interested in the well-being of the hurt, the sick and the sin-sick. I share with them the healing and the wholeness of God.

In me the rich and the poor come together for worship. Through my mission the poor become rich beyond price, and the rich become generous and gentle beyond belief.

People come to me from a divided life to find the unity of God's being. They come from a world at war to live in a world of peace. The world cannot understand this transformation, nor overcome it.

I am a downtown Church in the heart of a great city. I live for the Glory of God and the need of His people. The older I am, the stronger I become. God is the source of my strength and the purpose of my being. I fear nothing the future can place before me, not even the gates of hell.

I am a downtown Church. I am dedicated to the Glory of God, the love of Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

As in the past, so will it ever be. My life in service to God depends upon your life in service to Him. I leave my future in your hands.

God is my witness.

*Written by  
Andrew M. Sebben, Minister  
First Presbyterian Church  
Trenton, New Jersey*

*All activities take place in the church unless otherwise noted*

## **June 2008**

### **1\*SUNDAY**

8:15 a.m. – Chapel Worship Service  
8:45 a.m. – Nursery Opens  
9:00 a.m. – Adult Programming Classes  
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time  
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service  
11:30 a.m. – Fellowship Hour

### **2\*MONDAY**

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

### **3\*TUESDAY**

7:30 a.m. – Bible Study Section II  
10:30 a.m. – Elder Hostel

### **4\*WEDNESDAY**

5:30 p.m. – Chapel Worship Service  
6:00 p.m. – Midweek Gathering

### **5\*THURSDAY**

9:30 a.m. – Presbytery Pastors Meeting  
5:30 p.m. – Yoga Class  
6:30 p.m. – World Affairs Council  
7:00 p.m. – Deacons Meeting  
- FPC of Evansville Indiana Choir Concert

### **6\*FRIDAY**

5:00 p.m. – Wheal/Hunt Wedding Rehearsal

### **7\*SATURDAY**

4:00 p.m. – Wheal/Hunt Wedding

### **8\*SUNDAY**

8:15 a.m. – Chapel Worship Service  
8:45 a.m. – Nursery Opens  
9:00 a.m. – Adult Programming Classes  
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time  
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service  
11:30 a.m. – Fellowship Hour

### **10\*TUESDAY**

7:30 a.m. – Bible Study Section II  
6:00 p.m. - Sister Cities Meeting

### **11\*WEDNESDAY**

5:30 p.m. – Chapel Worship Service  
6:00 p.m. – Midweek Gathering

### **12\*THURSDAY**

6:30 a.m. – Ecology Bus Trip to Chicago  
6:30 p.m. – World Affairs Council  
7:00 p.m. – Mission Committee Meeting

### **15\*SUNDAY**

8:15 a.m. – Chapel Worship Service  
8:45 a.m. – Nursery Opens  
9:00 a.m. – Adult Programming Class  
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time  
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service  
11:30 a.m. – Fellowship Hour

### **16\*MONDAY**

6:00 p.m. – Faith Circle Potluck  
- Vacation Bible School

### **17\*TUESDAY**

7:30 a.m. – Bible Study Section II  
6:00 p.m. – Vacation Bible School

### **18\*WEDNESDAY**

5:30 p.m. – Chapel Worship Service  
6:00 p.m. – Midweek Gathering  
- Vacation Bible School

### **19\*THURSDAY**

5:30 p.m. – Yoga Class  
6:00 p.m. - Vacation Bible School  
6:30 p.m. – World Affairs Council  
7:00 p.m. – Session Meeting

### **20\*FRIDAY**

6:00 p.m. – Vacation Bible School

### **22\*SUNDAY**

8:15 a.m. – Chapel Worship Service  
8:45 a.m. – Nursery Opens  
9:00 a.m. – Adult Programming Classes  
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time  
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service  
11:30 a.m. – Fellowship Hour

### **24\*TUESDAY**

7:30 a.m. – Bible Study Section II

### **25\*WEDNESDAY**

5:30 p.m. – Chapel Worship Service  
6:00 p.m. – Midweek Gathering

### **26\*THURSDAY**

5:30 p.m. – Yoga Class

### **28\*SATURDAY**

2:00 p.m. – George Ecklund Student Recital

### **29\*SUNDAY**

8:15 a.m. – Chapel Worship Service  
8:45 a.m. – Nursery Opens  
9:00 a.m. – Adult Programming Classes  
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time  
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service  
11:30 a.m. – Fellowship Hour