



First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck, North Dakota

Here and NOW!

March 2010 Volume 57 Number 3

Table of Contents

- Page 2 Handbell Workshop and Concert
Adult Faith Formation
- Page 3 Our Per Capita Obligation
Fellowship, Food, and Fun!
First Presbyterian Serves Community Banquet
- Page 4 Presbyterian Women
- Page 5 PresbyReaders
Fair Trade Sale
Summer Camp Clearwater Forest
- Page 6 January 2010 Statement of Activities
Women's Circles
March Acolytes
Lay Preacher Schedule
- Page 7 Munch and Mingle
Home Communion
Family News

Insert March Calendar

Website: www.fpcbismarck.com



"Burying the Past"

Jacob L. Kincaid, Minister

It's a sage bit of advice:

In the very depths of yourself, dig a grave. Let it be like some forgotten spot to which no path leads; and there, in the eternal silence, bury the wrongs that you have suffered. Your heart will feel as if a weight had fallen from it, and a divine peace comes to abide with you.

Too often we carry with us the painful and disabling memory of past wrongs done us, which nothing we can do now will erase. Our memory of them serves no purpose but to ill-equip us for the present.

If we have made whatever remedy we can, and if we have learned what we can from our hurts, the only remaining good we can do is to let them go—especially if we want to find peace.

Handbell Workshop and Concert



Westminster Chimes will be participating in this year's regional Artists Celebrating Christ event. On March 20, ACC will be holding an all day handbell workshop for 100 regional ringers followed by a massed concert open to the public. Monica McGowan, the director of the professional Twin Cities Bronze handbell choir, will be the guest conductor of the free concert at the University of Mary's Benedictine Center from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Adult Faith Formation



Living the Questions 2.0

Join us each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. in room 202 as we explore questions that inform our faith and shape our lives.

March 7: How do we understand the unfathomable mystery that we've come to call God? Is there a God whose character and ways of relating to the world can be explained in ways that make sense? Exploring these and other questions and concepts are at the heart of thinking theologically – a practice in which we all engage, whether we know it or not.

March 14: The ancient Hebrews who composed what we now know as Genesis were brilliant storytellers, and although their writings have for generations been thought to explain the "how" of what

happened historically, their stories are much deeper and richer when they are properly understood metaphorically as wrestling with the "whys" of human life. When we delve into these ancient stories, we catch a glimpse of the answer to the eternal question, "What's the meaning of life?" We are reminded that we are made in the image of the Divine – the one who brings order out of chaos and finds joy in the act of creating.

March 21: Regardless of how faithful one is to the portrayals of Jesus by any particular denomination or tradition, no two people understand or relate to Jesus in exactly the same way. This is one of the reasons the Bible includes four different versions of the story of Jesus' life. Will the real Jesus please stand up?

March 28: While we express it in many different ways, most people are "wired" to be spiritual. We long to find others who are wired in similar ways that we might advance our mutual understanding to the next level, perchance to change the world for the better. If we take seriously the words of Socrates, "The unexamined life is not worth living," most people are living spiritually worthless lives – unexamined, unquestioned, and uninspired. What does it mean to be in relationship with God? How does this influence how we live our lives?

April 11: Perhaps no single person is more responsible for the existence of Christianity as we know it today than that balding preacher from Tarsus whom we know as Paul. Idolized by some and discredited by others Paul is without question one of the most controversial figures in the history of Christianity. But one thing can't be questioned: his passion for Christ and his apparent willingness to risk life and limb in propagating his interpretation of Christ's message and purpose.

Our Per Capita Obligation

Every year each of the congregations that make up the Presbyterian Church, USA is assessed their share of the cost of funding the programs and administrative costs of the synods, presbyteries, and General Assembly. This includes leadership training, bulletin materials, and worship aids. The amount is determined by the number of active members in each church. This year's assessment is \$41.95 for each member, which amounts to slightly over \$29,000 for our congregation. As in the past, we are asking each of you to consider paying your share of \$41.95 for **each active member** of your household so that the church may fulfill its obligation to the church as a whole. Please indicate "per capita" on the memo line.

Thank you in advance for your generous response.



Fellowship, Food, and Fun!

Join in the festivities of a congregational potluck on Sunday, March 21, in the Ramstad Hall following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Please provide a casserole, salad, or a dessert to share. Beverages, buns, plates and utensils will be provided. **YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!**

First Presbyterian Serves Community Banquet



On **Thursday, March 11**, First Presbyterian Church will again serve the Banquet at Trinity Lutheran Church. Approximately 300-350 Bismarck/Mandan community members join us at the Banquet for food and fellowship!

Thirty volunteers are needed from First Presbyterian Church to cook and serve the meal. If this is not possible, please consider donating a pan of bars or donating money for the purchase of food (if providing a check, please note "The Banquet" in the memo area of the check).

The Banquet's goal is to nourish the body with food and the spirit with dignity and respect. We listen to our guests tell their stories. We support their struggling. We encourage the weak. We are gentle to all. We are a companion to all who come. We have reached out to our brothers and sisters in need and we have responded to that need with compassionate concern. The greatest act of charity is to restore a person's dignity.

The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. The Outreach Committee would love to have you join us!

Presbyterian Women

Since 1873 women of the First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck have been organized as a working group to raise funds, promote mission, study the Bible, and offer servant leadership within the church as needed. First called The Ladies Aid, the organization is currently known as Presbyterian Women in the Congregation (PWC). PWC serves all levels of the Presbyterian Church: presbytery, synod and General Assembly. In January 2010, after a year of consideration, the PWC Coordinating Team approved disbanding because leadership positions have not been filled and volunteers are not available to carry out projects within the local church. While this brings to an end one formal means to organize women of the church, it acknowledges that women have already found different ways to offer service and further the church's mission.

In the early history of this congregation, the women's organization was admired for its "incessant" fund raising via bazaars and suppers, and "substantial" contributions to church projects and mission. Presbyterian Women has always operated under and been subject to the supervision of the Session and pastor. One account of the workings of the Women's Association reports, "The women who were active in the conduct of such bazaars clearly marked themselves as possessors of courage, enthusiasm and genuine loyalty." In many cases from the local to the national church, the "women's funds" were offered or co-opted to pay the bills and save the church from financial disaster. Through second-mile giving women faithfully supported mission locally and around the world: they used their resources to do both.

Today women may no longer function in the same capacity they once did, but women continue to bring their concern, vitality, unique and essential gifts to every aspect of the life and work of the church.

The organization has spanned parts of three centuries. So much God-given energy and talent has been contributed and so many women from the early pioneer women to today's circle members have found a special place in the church that disbanding PWC was a difficult decision. The organization has earned the tribute "well done good and faithful servant." The accomplishments have been many.

Going forward into the 21st Century, women's Circles in the Bismarck church will continue to meet for Bible study and fellowship. New ideas for reaching out to women and living out our faith will continue to be sought.



PresbyReaders

If you love reading and good discussion, join us for the next session of PresbyReaders, Saturday, April 17, in the church parlor.

Our next book is *Following God Through the Eye of A Needle* by Kent Annan. In 2003 Kent Annan and his wife Shelly Satran moved to Haiti. This book is a personal account of their experiences living and working in Haiti with the group Beyond Borders. (Shelly is the daughter of First Presbyterian Church members Winston and Barb Satran.) Copies of the book are available for purchase in the church office for \$10.00.

Fair Trade Sale

The Fair Trade Sale will be Sunday, March 21 in the church parlor and available anytime in the church office.

“Before we were employees; we had employers and we worked for them. We were abandoned many times. Now we have a new structure and we can work with dignity and for our own development. We are working for ourselves and no one else. This is our model and if we are successful, then we will have a future.” President Sher Bahadur of Potong Tea Garden, Darjeeling.

This is one of many first person testimonies about the successful Fair Trade program that our churches have pioneered to help people in developing countries. You are a partner in this effort when you buy Fair Trade goods at First Presbyterian Church.

The bonus is that the small profit that is made here (10 - 20%) helps fund the First Presbyterian Church Child Care Center. One decision to purchase these high quality goods, two worthy groups benefit.

P.S. We will have salted pecans back in stock in March. The winter storms on the East Coast shut down our supplier so we were unable to order in time for delivery for the February sale. The pecans that we get are a roasted, salted snack food. If you decide to use them for baking leave salt out of the recipe. Love Buzz beans and ground coffee will be on sale. Love Buzz is a great medium dark roast coffee, half way between regular and French.

Summer Camp

Clearwater Forest



It's time to register for camp at Clearwater Forest. Information about summer camp opportunities for the week of July 11 - 17 for children and youth entering grades 3 thru 12 this fall is available in the narthex and the church office. Camps that week include Discovery Camp for elementary age children, Adventure Camp for middle school youth, and Senior High Sailing Camp for youth in grades 9 - 12.

We will pay ½ of the registration fee for one camp for members and children of members.

Complete the registration form and return it to the church office and we will send it in to Clearwater. Registrations received before March 31 will receive a free t-shirt from Clearwater. For more information call the church office or visit www.clearwaterforest.org.

Statement of Activities

January 2010

Description	2010 YTD Actual	2010 YTD Budget	2010 Annual Budget
INCOME			
Offerings	42,752	35,579	464,057
Other Income	4,531	1,673	20,078
Transfers	5,852	6,875	82,500
Total Income	53,135	44,127	566,635
EXPENSE			
Personnel	27,015	28,442	341,299
Administrative	2,794	2,348	28,179
Per Capita Assessment	29,239	29,365	29,365
Missions	5,906	5,907	70,880
Food & Kitchen	365	267	3,201
Session Expense	0	134	1,601
Christian Education	443	1,997	23,959
Membership	93	332	3,978
Outreach	60	511	6,138
Property & Equipment	4,965	5,052	77,094
Stewardship	0	202	2,425
Worship & Music	508	477	5,723
Total Expense	71,388	75,034	593,842
Income Less Expense	(18,253)	(30,907)	(27,207)



Women's Circles

- Circle 1 - Thursday, March 4, 9:30 a.m.
- Circle 2 - Thursday, March 4, 1:00 p.m.
- Circle 5 - Thursday, March 4, 1:30 p.m.
- Circle 3 - Saturday, March 6, 8:30 a.m.

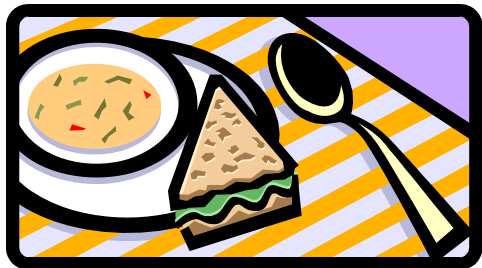
March Acolytes

10:00 AM	
7	Mallory Henriksen
14	Isaac Blake
21	Abby Bjornson
28	Devin Beck

Lay Preacher Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
March 14	Glencoe	Nancy Legerski
	Hazelton	Jim Skaret
March 21	Glencoe	Karen Larson
	Steele	Katherine Satrom
March 28	Glencoe	Betty Day
	Hazelton	Casey Chapman

Munch and Mingle



Munch and Mingle is an adult fellowship group for singles and couples in the senior adult age range. Join the group on Wednesday, March 10, at noon in the Ramkota dining room. Meet new friends or catch up with longtime friends. No reservations required.

Home Communion

The congregation will celebrate the Lord's Supper, Sunday, March 21st. The pastors, elders or deacons will be glad to serve communion at home, hospital, or nursing home to anyone who is unable to worship with the congregation. Please call Pastor Kincaid to schedule a time, 223-6091 ext. 11.



Family News

Deaths

Our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of those who have died:

John Dixon, whose father died February 9, 2010.

Dale Mailloux died February 9, 2010.

Robert C. Orr died February 18, 2010.

Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers during this time of great sorrow.

Births

Annabelle Jean was born February 1, 2010. Parents are Fred and Alisha Wohl.



First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck
214 E. Thayer Avenue
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Address Service Requested

First Presbyterian Church

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Sunday Worship Schedule

Education Hour: 9:00 a.m.
Regular Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Church Staff

Pastor-Head of Staff	The Rev. Dr. Jacob L. Kincaid
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Vicki J. Rucker
A.A., Program and Communications	Janell Rath
A.A., Business and Finance	Vickie Haas
Organist	Jan Candee
Choir Director	Debi Rogers
Bell Choir Director	Lael Hoerauf
Custodian	Les Hornbacher
Child Care Center Director	Shawn Stettner
Parish Nurse	JuLann Wiseman
Membership Services	Judy Lentz
Membership Services	Elise Hocking

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For the Latest News
www.fpcbismarck.com

First Presbyterian Church
Bismarck, North Dakota

A Vision

To be a welcoming, serving,
worshipping, and nurturing community.