

April
2010

From Your Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

The calendar says its spring, but I'm not putting my warm clothes away yet. I think I will need my coat again for the Easter Sunrise Service.

Are you receiving the Constant Contact e-mails that come out (approximately) weekly? If not, please send me your e-mail address so I can be sure you're on the list. E-mail, Twitter, Facebook, texting: like it or not this is how people stay connected now. Of course there will always be the face-to-face visit, phone calls, and notes sent by the US Mail, but I read recently that text messaging has surpassed voice calls by 3:1.

New Note Cards

Melanie Antrim is an artist; she is also the niece of Sarah Steenrod, and granddaughter of Tom and Polly Watkins. Her drawing of the church is on the front of our new note cards. We enjoy seeing this updated simple drawing of our beautiful building.

40 Days of Love

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 40 Days study and small group experience. I hope you had the opportunity to reflect individually and in your group on the transforming power of God's love and how the practice of that love can strengthen relationships in our church family. Watch for the announcement for a one-day retreat late in the Spring to discover and examine the spiritual gifts you possess to share with the life and ministry of the church of Jesus Christ.

Same Kind of Different as Me

Thank you, Roger Reineke, for recommending this book. Authors Ron Hall and Denver Moore describe their book as the incredible story of a dangerous homeless drifter, an upscale art dealer, and a gutsy woman that begins outside a burning plantation hut in Louisiana and in the heart of God. I'm not through with it yet, but I will recommend the book. After several of us have had the chance to read, let's get together and discuss the book together.

Front Porch Jams

Warmer weather will be here, and that will be the season to gather on the front porch of the manse on a Sunday afternoon. We'll be able to tell when the weather is right, and all will be welcome to come with your guitar, harmonica, and maybe even a keyboard, to sing and jam in the neighborhood.

Thank you to everybody who helps out at the church: in the office, around the grounds, in the kitchen, on the phones, at the media desk, in the choir loft, classroom, rec room, and everywhere else. You know who you are, and so does God.

Glory be,
Pastor Joe ☺

Mission Statement

God calls us to be a welcoming community of faith, striving to follow the Word of God through worship, prayer, study, and ministry to all.

Worship Schedule

9:30 am	Christian Education
10:30 am	Worship*
11:30 am	Fellowship (1st Sun. of the month)
4:00 pm	Culto en Español Domingos

* *First Sunday of every month there is a bi-lingual service*



FIRST PRESS



SARAH'S CORNER



!In my monthly newsletter articles, I usually try to be upbeat, witty, and maybe even a little bit inspirational. This month, I'd like to address a topic that I believe in very strongly. It's a topic that our church seems to dance around, and the dance has been going on for many years. I feel this topic needs to be the very top priority for our church this year. The officers of the church have heard my speech, and now it's your turn. If I sound angry, I'm sorry, but I am angry. I'm angry that this topic hasn't been a priority all along, and I'm disappointed that very few of you seem to be angry about it. This topic is Christian Education, and I hope that I don't have to remind you that **Christian Education isn't just for children-it's for all ages**. This does not mean that the programs we offer aren't good-quite the contrary! They're very good, and they're run by some very dedicated and faithful people. But we're offering what we can with the volunteers we have, and it simply isn't enough.

Below is some information I'd like to share with you:

- There are 44 people under the age of 25 who have some relationship with our church. This includes grandchildren who frequent our church, as well as college students who come home on occasion.
- May 2006: a survey was done by the Session, as part of a "Focus on Christian Education". When asked "What would you like to see as a part of the Christian Education program of SFPC?" answers included: a larger CE committee, chaired by 2 elders, employ a Christian Educator, employ a nursery caregiver, create both a short and long term "road map" for CE, have concern about needs of middle-aged members, stress need for adult education and importance of life-long learning, sponsor a mission trip, make Kirkmont church camp a priority.
- June 2006: a letter was written and read to Session by a young person, who was "desperately saying" to Session to "not forget the young people."
- July 2006: a focus group was established to bring recommendations to Session concerning CE. While the suggestions were similar to the survey mentioned above, the strongest suggestion was to hire a trained Christian Educator who can lead the cause, with the thought that when we've had a CE person in the past, the program has flourished. The final comment on the report was "Bottom line is we need to act now and be pro-active and not re-active concerning our Christian Education here at First Presbyterian."
- At the Officers Retreat held this spring, officers used a tool called "The Children's Ministry Effectiveness Model" survey to take a look at our Christian Education program today. This tool was created by the educators at Logos Ministry. The answers are based on each person's perspective, so you may not agree with some of the results. The results are on display in the Gathering Area, and I encourage you to take a look at them.

On Sunday, April 18th, after worship, we will have a representative from Logos here who will help us decipher our results. She will help us decide what our priorities are, where we should head next, and how we plan on getting there. I encourage each of you to consider attending and adding your input. Your input will be invaluable as we plan for the future of our church.

Please remember that I was not hired to be the Christian Educator. I was hired to be the Program Coordinator, which encompasses ALL programs. And my biggest responsibility is to be a resource for all of you, so that we can all work together to accomplish goals. Christian Education is just a part of all that I do. And I'm speaking to you as a parent as well as a staff member.

Again, I'm sorry if I sound angry. It's because I love this church, I love all of you, and I want to see us flourish. I hope you will join me in turning anger into action.

EASTER SUNDAY

Please join us on Sunday, April 4th for Easter. Our sunrise service will be held at the labyrinth at 7:00 AM. Brunch will be prepared and served by the men in the congregation, beginning at 9:00 AM until 10:00 AM. A traditional breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, toast and beverages will be offered. We will offer a shortened Children's Church from 10:00 AM until 10:30 AM, so that the children and teachers can join in worship on that day. Traditional worship service with communion will begin at 10:30 AM.

Children's Ministry Effectiveness Model speaker coming April 18th!

Officers of our church are preparing for the future of the church. As part of this preparation, an in-depth study is being done concerning the Christian Education programs and how we can build on what we current offer. The Logos Ministries organization has provided us with a tool to help prioritize what our church wants/needs to address, and how to proceed. If you have a passion for Christian Education-either for your children, your grandchildren, or for yourself-please attend this meeting to offer your input! Please know that your attendance at this event DOES NOT mean that you will be asked to become a member of the Christian Education Committee (unless YOU want to!). We will gather for a light lunch after worship, and meet with Sarah Ose from Logos Ministries for about 2 hours. Please see Sarah if you would like to participate and to make reservations for lunch.

Central Zone End of Year Wrap-Up

The last day of Central Zone will be Tuesday, April 20th. We will go directly to Jackson Towers for a party on that day to celebrate the completion of a successful year. There will be food and games, and perhaps a visitor to read to the students. All tutors are encouraged to attend so that we can say good-bye to a great group of students! See Sarah if you have any questions. Thank you to the following volunteers who have been so dedicated to Central Zone this year: Tori Aiken, Jenny Barhorst, Jean Bartley, Elliott Godwin, Laura Gutman, Sarah Hipple, Kay Miller, Carol Milligan, Ross Moore, Blake Steenrod, Katie Steenrod, Sally Stilwell, Polly Watkins and Tom Watkins. Thanks also to Jerry Kauffman, Ed Miller and JoAnn Reineke for cooking dinners for us!

Nearly 900 meals have been distributed since the beginning of this program in fall 2009! The Munch Bunch Meal program continues during the spring of 2010 through the end of the school year.

The students are indentified by school staff. Volunteers procure the contents, package them in zip lock bags, and deliver them to Central School every Friday. Currently, 38 students receive the weekend meal supplements, although the quantity fluctuates as children move in or out of the school.

Thank you all—volunteers, sponsors and helpers, with this Mission Committee project!



April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service.	2	3
7:00 am—Sunrise Easter Service 9:00 Easter Brunch 10:30 Easter Resurrection Service.	5	2:00 pm—Bible Study 3:15 Central Zone 7:00 pm Christian Education Committee 7:00 pm—Rejoice	6:00 pm—Fun, food & Fellowship 7:00 pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal	6:30 pm—Session	Hazardous Waste drop off at church	10
9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am—Worship & last 40 Days of Love Study	12	2:00 pm—Bible Study 3:15 pm—Central Zone 7:00 pm—Deacons 7:00 pm—Rejoice Ringers rehearsal	7:00 pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal	15	16	Pack 92 Tree planting at Labyrinth
9:30 am—Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 4:00 pm—Hispanic Worship	19	2:00 pm—Bible Study 3:15 pm—Last Central Zone 7:00 pm—Rejoice Ringers rehearsal	6:00 pm—Fun, Food & Fellowship 7:00 pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal	6:00 pm—Outreach Committee	23	24
9:30 am—Sunday School 10:30 am—Worship 4:00 pm—Hispanic Worship	26	10:00 am—P WA 2:00 pm -Bible Study 6:30 pm -Worship & Music Committee 7:00 pm -Rejoice	7:00 pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal	29	30	

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

ATTENTION: April 10 is the hazardous material collection day at Sidney Service Center on Vandemark Road. Entry is from Campbell Road. If you want to bring oil base paints, varnish, weed killer, batteries, old medicines to the church gathering room on Friday, April 9, I will take a load out. Don't bring tires. And, latex paints can be dried out on your own for standard pickup.

Annual Spring Clean-Up Scheduled for May 16th

Wear your grubbier clothes, bring your gardening gloves, and join us on Sunday, May 16th after worship! We'll have a light lunch, and then we'll get to work cleaning and sprucing up both inside and out. You can choose to clean inside, work in the (hopefully) sunshine outside or prepare and serve lunch. We'll also be accepting donations for flowers, mulch, or lunch supplies! Please see Jerry Kauffman if you have any

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY NETWORK OF THE MIAMI PRESBYTERY ACTIVITY

The next gathering of Older Adults in our Presbytery will be a trip to Bearcreek Farms in Bryant, Indiana for a buffet luncheon and musical extravaganza on Saturday, May 1, 2010. We will be traveling by bus from the Presbytery office and will return to that location. We will leave at 9:00 am and return no later than 6:00 pm. Registration is due by April 21 with checks and registration forms to be mailed to Annette May. The cost is \$58.00. If you are interested, registration forms can be obtained in the church office.



1. Annette Castle	19. Hannah Davis	25. Lorna Grinstead
5. April Presser	20. Susan Hughes	26. Jane Hall
7. Brooke Fogt	20. Jackie Godinez	29. Jenny Blazquez
16. Sondra Dunham	23. Margarithe Anderson	30. Ed Miller

2010 Spring Youth Retreat
At Kirkmont Center

On April 9-11, 2010, share the "Stories We Live By" at the Spring Youth Retreat at Kirkmont Center. This is an event for youth in grades 7-12 and their advisors. The guest speaker is Rev. Jennifer Fouse. For registration forms contact the PYC network or visit www.miamipresbytery.org to obtain registration forms. Registration fee is \$65.00 per person. For more information, you can call the church office for further details.

Muleskinner Band Back by popular demand! July 17, 2010.

CUB NEWS

- Pack 92 collected 165 pounds of food for Alpha Center use on March 20.
- First grader Landon Deam was the Pinewood Derby champion, going undefeated in seven races.
- April 12—Tiger Den will tour the Shelby County Jail.
- April 17—Unless a downpour, Pack 92 will help plant three items to enhance the labyrinth and honor June Kauffman. (Show up and learn some tips.)
- April 19—Unless a downpour, Tiger den will install a duck nesting station at a pond in Lockington Reserve.
- April 26— Pack 92 will have their final awards ceremony along with a demonstration from the Shelby County Canine Unit at Tawawa Park Geib gazebo.

APRIL GREETER'S SCHEDULE

April 4:	Chip Wells at the door by the piano. Dale and Carol Barr at the back of the sanctuary.	HELLO!
April 11:	Jerry Kauffman at the door by the piano. Ed Miller and Tom Watkins at the back of the sanctuary.	HELLO!
April 18:	Ann Hagen at the door by the piano. Marilyn McCarthy and Polly Watkins at the back of the sanctuary.	HELLO!
April 25:	Darryl Cloud at the door by the piano. Ross and Aunalee Moore at the back of the sanctuary.	

If you are interested in volunteering as a greeter or you have questions, please see Polly Watkins.

MEDIA SCHEDULE

Easter Sunday, April 4	Lyle Drew
Sunday, April 11	Judy Harp
Sunday, April 18	Lyle Drew
Sunday, April 25	Lyle Drew
Sunday, May 2	Lyle Drew
Sunday, May 9	Judy Harp
Sunday, May 16	Lyle Drew
Sunday, May 24	Lyle Drew
Sunday, May 30	Lyle Drew

COMMUNION SERVERS

The Communion Servers for April 4th are:

Elders:	Chip Wells Jerry Kauffman
Deacons:	Chris Geuy Ross Moore



COFFEE HOUR

There are still some open dates that need to be filled, check out the board in the back of the sanctuary for the open dates.

FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Mark these dates on your calendar:

- April 7th-Tom and Polly Watkins cooking
- April 21st-Reinekes cooking
- May 5th-Sarah cooking
- May 19th- Your name here!

All dinners begin at 6:00 PM. The cost per person is \$4.00. All are welcome to this very laid-back, casual time for fun, food and fellowship! Reservations are due by Tuesday morning of the week-reserve your spot by calling the church office at 492-4597 or emailing Sarah at ssteen-rod@embarqmail.com.

Innovations in worship

Coming this spring

The Worship and Music Committee keeps their eyes and minds open for opportunities to add innovation in worship. From time to time, watch for announcements about a Sunday where worship might not be what you expect: A different way to present music, a different worship setting, a different way for you to participate.

MEN'S RETREAT AT KIRKMONT—MAY 14-15, 2010

Annual Men's Conference at Kirkmont Center — Please join men from around the Miami Presbytery for a retreat on Friday, May 14/Saturday, May 15th. The theme for the weekend is "The History of Jesus Revisited" and the keynote speaker is Dr. David Hawley, pastor of Indian Hills Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati. Lodging and program will be held at Croft House on the Kirkmont campus. Cost for the event is \$70.00 for overnight, or \$45.00 for commuter, and includes all meals and materials. Registration forms are available in the church office, or by going to Kirkmont's website at www.kirkmontcenter.com.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The year is bright with hope and challenges for us in the first Presbyterian Church. In 2010 I find myself a member of both the Personnel and Finance Committee on the session. These are roles of responsibility, but no more or less of service than that offered by Pastor Hinds, the other staff and other members of the Session. I am honored to serve and proud to be a member of this church.

In my service on session, I have hands on understanding of the “nuts and bolts” of the church’s operation. As such, I believe it necessary that I share the troubling budget realities with all members of the church. I do so in an effort to promote the Church’s long term future and growth and also as a wake up call to the membership. All is not lost, but the financial future is clearly a challenge.

Budgets are a matter of revenue and expense. In the church’s case, the expenditures, due to the efforts of the hard working staff have remained constant or declined over the last 2 years. However, revenue has declined dramatically during the same time. This decline is caused by decreased giving by members (hard economy, smaller number of members, death of more affluent members), reduced interest and dividends on the Church’s assets (less money to invest, lower interest rates and poorer stock returns) and smaller end of the year grants. As a result, for both 2009 and 2010, the session was forced to pass an operational budget that obligated both the earnings and some \$50,000 of the principal of long term gifts. We are burning through long term assets for operational uses! In fact if the rate of consumption continues, in about 10 years, the gifts will be exhausted and this 150 year old church will be insolvent.

A tough position, but all is not lost. Through the strong leadership of the staff, attendance, participation and giving are up in 2010 when compared to 2009. Further, we all know that in order to make a change and reverse a long term decline, certain investments are necessary. “You have to prime the pump to get water”. The question to the membership is, “Is the church going in the right direction? Are we making a difference? Is the future brighter? Do you want to bring in others to share our experiences?”

To help answer the questions above, be advised of the following changes and programs that have been put in place:

- Planning Team formed and meeting regularly to review how to enhance the ministry, finance and facilities of the church.
- 40 days of Love program offered in spring, the beginning of member revitalization process.
- Pastor Joe participating in Continuing Education to Holy Land.
- Each Session Committee highlighted to the congregation each month to create further awareness of work of the church.

Other Church activities and efforts are being reviewed by the Staff and session including:

- Facility needs, including handicap accessible dining/multi-use area and updates to sanctuary.
- Other possible uses of the manse, including generating rental income.
- Heating system review to consider options of current boiler vs. high efficiency boiler.
- Pastor Joe’s performance review, including study to prepare for a permanent call at end of his three year Designated call.
- Provide congregation with regular financial updates—income vs. expense.
- Endowment giving awareness- brochure, annual luncheon, etc.
- Consider special funding appeals, ie. Mission efforts, Music Ministry, funding for Musical Arts Series

My family has been with this church for only 5 years. We have no long term memory. We can only look forward. As a member of session and as an officer of the church I feel a duty to fully disclose the challenges. As a member, I look forward to working with all members to rise to these challenges and insure the growth of the first Presbyterian Church allowing service for the next 150 years.

Please give Pastor Joe or members of session your thoughts.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Stilwell

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Rev. Joe Hinds, Pastor (joemhinds3@aol.com)
Sarah Steenrod, Program Coordinator (ssteenrod@embarqmail.com)
Ann Hagen, Administrative Assistant (sidney1stpres@embarqmail.com)

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday

Session

(meet the 2nd Thursday of each month)

Doug Bomba
Charles Castle
Darryl Cloud
Ann Hagen
Dennis Hughes
Jerry Kauffman
Scott Kelly
Ed Miller
Rick Steenrod
Steve Stilwell
Chip Wells
Maggie Wiley

Deacons

(meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month)

Avrial Altschul
Annette Castle
Elizabeth Davis
Chris Geuy
Susan Hughes
Jennifer Kelly
Carol Milligan
Richie Moore
Ross Moore
Sally Stilwell
Margie Tatum
Dianne Wells