

January
2009

From Your Pastor



FIRST PRESS

Vision

My first fast was an overnight retreat organized by the Psychology department at Samford University where I spent a year as a Divinity student. About 12 of us went to a church camp on a Friday afternoon. We made a covenant of silence and fasting until Saturday at noon. Mostly I read, I brought my bible and a book about Brother Bryan, a Presbyterian minister who served in Birmingham, Alabama at the turn of the 20th century. In my coursework, I was studying Evagrius of Pontus, the 4th century desert monastic who wrote that it is necessary to “quieten the passions within,” setting us free from all that distracts and divides us from the contemplation of God.

It wasn't long before I got hungry. Our fasting covenant allowed for drinking a little juice or milk, so I did. I reached a point where I realized that it was not so much that I was hungry as I was just in the habit of getting something to eat. The discipline reminded me that I would not starve, and that I would survive until time to break the fast at noon the next day. Fasting also freed me from having to prepare something to eat, taking time to eat, then to clean up.

Later, hunger resided sharply within my body. It was not a distraction, rather it seemed to sharpen my senses towards what I was reading. For a little while I experienced the sanctification of thinking Evagrius describes that prepares a closeness with God. For many hours over that night and into the next day, I seemed to get it. I would eat again, I would not starve, and I was able to set worries about food aside and engage my reading. My eyes coaxed the words off the page and to my brain, I internalized the narratives I read differently than I ever had before. It's not that I memorized what I read, but I can still feel the sharp connection when I think of that night almost eleven years ago.

Retreat

We will not fast at the officer's retreat and the congregational retreat. We will; however, work to sharpen our vision about the life and ministry of our church. I will encourage each one to spend some time in the coming months, individually and corporately, evaluating our life together as a congregation, reaching out into the community, and reaching out farther. At both retreats I will facilitate a vision process and invite you to continue the vision work you began last winter, even as I give thanks for the opportunity to now be “on that train with you.”

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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*



SARAH'S CORNER



With 2009 fast approaching, I'd like to take this time to thank all of you who helped make 2008 such a great year around here. When I look back at all of the things we've accomplished in the building, all of the programs that we were able to provide, and all of the lives that we've touched, I give great thanks to those of you who made it all happen! I look forward to 2009 as we take a closer look at where we want to go and how we hope to serve God in and around our community and beyond. Here are just a few reminders of what we've been able to do, with God's grace this year:

- The Balloon Party Women's Retreat- first EVER joint activity our sister church in Piqua
- Established a relationship with Jackson Towers residents which has continued in many ways
- Through a series of presentations, learned about various volunteer opportunities in the community during our "Mission Possible" series
- Purchased a multi-media system that will soon be installed
- Got rid of lots of junk via a garage sale-proceeds go to development of the newly developed "Heritage Room"
- Collaborated with Westminster Presbyterian Church in Piqua for Rainforest Adventure VBS
- Participated downtown in Kids Around the Square
- Held first-ever book sale in collaboration with Grace Christian Book Store to raise funds our new church library
- Sent over 30 boxes filled with gifts to "Operation Christmas Child"
- Hosted the first-ever hand bell seminar and concert
- Participated in the Winter Wonderland Parade
- Hosted the 2nd annual Turkey Trot Run/Walk
- Hosted the "Spectacular Sounds of Christmas" concert with the Swing Era Band

This is just a sampling of the things we do around here. In the midst of all of this, we also called a new pastor to join our family of believers, and the Nominating committee has completed its task of calling members to serve as new Elders and Deacons to help see that God's work continues. May God continue to bless our church in 2009, and may He bless each of you as well.



“Snowflakes Sparkling In God’s World”



Women’s Retreat Registration Form

Sponsored by Westminster Presbyterian Church of Piqua and
First Presbyterian Church of Sidney

Date: January 9-10, 2009

Location: Dunaway House, Kirkmont Conference Center, Zanesfield, Ohio

- _____ Overnight - 7 pm Friday to 3 pm Saturday - \$30
open to the first 20 women (10 from each church)
- _____ Saturday Only - 8:30 am to 3 pm - \$15
open to first 8 women (4 from each church)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Please send completed registration form and payment to Sarah Steenrod at 202 N. Miami Ave., Sidney, Ohio 45365 by December 30, 2008. Due to limited space, payment is required to secure your place. Please make checks payable to the church

If you would like more information please contact Pastor Kazy Hinds (Piqua) or Sarah Steenrod (Sidney).

FROM YOUR PASTOR CONT...

Thank you

So many SFPCers have done so much to make the Advent and Christmas season beautiful. Thank you for your music, participation in worship, decorating, cooking/baking, warm greetings, as well as countless expressions of love and appreciation. In so many ways, we do church right.

Why “Glory be?”

Although it sounds like a line from “The Beverly Hillbillies,” I close with the phrase as found in *The Doxologia Minor*, an ancient Trinitarian short hymn of praise. You will recognize this as the *Gloria Patri*, which we sing in worship. “Glory be” is an abbreviated form used in the Benedictine Liturgy of the Hours. I use it as a closing blessing and affirmation of praise.

Glory be,
Pastor Joe ⊕

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 11 am: Hispanic Comm. Meeting
4 9:30 am: Christian Ed. 10:30 am: Bi-lingual Worship Service 11:30 am: Coffee Hour Decorations tear down	5	6 3:15 pm: Central Zone 8:30 pm: AA & Al-Anon	7 6:30 pm: Bell Choir 7:30 pm: Choir Pract.	8	9 WOMEN'S RETREAT @ KIRK MONT	10
11 9:30 am: Christian Ed. 10:30 am: Worship 4 pm: Hispanic Worship	12	13 3:15 pm: Central Zone 5 pm: Alpha Dinner 7 pm: Deacon's Meeting & Dinner 8:30 pm: AA & Al-Anon	14 6:30 pm: Bell Choir 7:30 pm: Choir Pract.	15	16	17
18 9:30 am: Christian Ed. 10:30 am: Worship 12 pm: Officer's Retreat 4 pm: Hispanic Worship <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20 10 am: Staff Meeting 3:15 pm: Central Zone 8:30 pm: AA & Al-Anon	21	22	23	24
25 9:30 am: Christian Ed. 10:30 am: Worship 4 pm: Hispanic Worship	26 6:30 pm: Scout Cake Auction	27 3:15 pm: Central Zone 6:30 pm: Worship Mtg 8:30 pm: AA & Al-Anon	28 6:30 pm: Bell Choir 7:30 pm: Choir Pract.	29	30	31

NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

This is a list of books that we were able to purchase through a generous donation from Presbyterian Women's Association and the Martha Thompson estate. We purchased these books through the Grace Christian Bookstore sale that we held, so we will also get 10% of the sales from these books, as well as all of the other merchandise sold. Thanks so much to all of you who helped with the sale, and to those who purchased merchandise as well! The books are currently in the library and available for borrowing. We do not have a system set up at this time, so please use the honor system in taking books out.

Bibles:

Live Application Study Bible (NIV)

Archaeological Study Bible (NIV) –

An illustrated walk through Biblical history and culture

Boys Bible-The Ultimate Manual (NIV)

Adventures Bible for Kids (NIV)

True Images-The Bible for Teen Girls (NIV)

Finding God-New Testament for Young Adults (NIV)

Devotional:

The One Year Daily Grind by Sarah Arthur

“Grab a mocha and spend some time with God-every day.”

Novels:

Between Sundays by Karen Kingsbury

Ever After by Karen Kingsbury

Even Now by Karen Kingsbury

Children's Books:

Who's Who and Where's Where in the Bible for Kids by Stephen M Miller

Learn more about the weird, wild, and wonderful people of the Bible

The Fruit of the Spirit is Jesus in Me-Galatians 5:22 by Dandi Daley Markall

In Jesse's Shoes by Beverly Lewis

Appreciating Kids with Special Needs

Today is Christmas by PK Hallinan

Away in a Manger (Arch Book Series)

On a Silent Night (Arch Book Series)

Mary's Christmas Story (Arch Book Series)

The Christmas Baby (Arch Book Series)

The Story of Christmas (Arch Book Series)

Born on Christmas Morn (Arch Book Series)

Non-Fiction:

Facing Your Giants by Max Lucado

Focus on giants, you stumble. Focus on God, your giants stumble.

Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire by Jim Cymbala

What happens when God's spirit invades the hearts of his people.

Getting Rid of the Gorilla by Brian Jones

Confessions of the struggle to forgive

The Parable of Joy by Michael Card

Reflections on the wisdom of the Book of John

Stone Crossings by LL Barkat

Finding grace in hard and hidden places

Same kind of Different As Me by Ron Hall and Denver Moore

A modern-day slave, an international art dealer, and the unlikely woman who bound them together.

Love and Respect by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

The love she most desires/the respect he desperately needs

Fool-Proofing Your Life by Jan Silvious

An honorable way to deal with the impossible people in your life

Practicing Hospitality by Pat Ennis and Lisa Tatlock

The joy of serving others

Prodigals and Those Who Love Them by Ruth Bell Graham

Words of encouragement for those who wait

When Goliath Doesn't Fall by Jody Conrad

How God shapes us through the events of our lives

Missions 2 Moments by Mitzi Eaker

52 easy-to-use missional messages and activities for today's family

God Said Yes by Heather Hornback-Bland and Ninie Hammon

True story of a medical miracle

The Grand Weaver by Ravi Zacharias

What happens to our faith when our giants defeat us?

I Second that Emotion by Patsy Clairmont

Untangling our zany feelings

Disappointment with God by Philip Yancey

3 questions no one asks aloud

THANK YOU...

I would like to thank those who kept myself and my family in your prayers during the passing of my grandfather. Your cards and kind words were very comforting during this sad time.

Thanks again,
Anne Abbott

THANKS, BOB LIVERMORE

For many years, Bob has served his home church well as Sexton. This is a 'behind the scenes' job anyway, but Bob has been doing his tasks often in the wee hours of the morning before or after his shift at Honda. These days, Bob's attentions are required in other areas of his home and work life and the church has responded to his requests to be relieved of significant portions of the Sexton's responsibilities such as snow removal, lawn mowing, and major cleaning of the church property. Everyone is encouraged to take a moment and thank Bob for his service to the church.

The church is grateful for Bob's previous efforts, and the Session has approved Bob's new responsibilities. Beginning in January 2009, Bob will only be responsible for opening the church on Sunday morning and securing the building after worship. Besides a few hours during the week for refuse removal, Bob will be available on an as-needed basis for maintenance and repair jobs.

We will engage a cleaning service for the building beginning in January. The Property and Personnel Committees invite the congregation to direct comments and suggestions regarding the new cleaning service to Pastor Joe, keeping in mind that it may take a couple of weeks to "break in" a new service to cover the fine job Bob has been doing. As your committee or group makes plans for building use, please include setting up and taking down tables, chairs, etc. in your volunteer needs.

MEET AMY GREVENKAMP

We are pleased to welcome Amy as our Nursery Caregiver. Amy lives in New Bremen and is a student at Wright State University where she is working on a degree in mathematics. She brings a broad experience in caring for children and in her short time at First Presbyterian Church, has already shown her compassion for and interest in children. Please stop by the nursery and welcome Amy to our church.

BOOK REVIEW

I'm Proud of You-My Friendship with Fred Rogers

This book was written by Tim Madigan, a writer for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. He was given the assignment in 1995 to interview the great "Mister Rogers" for the newspaper. The book tells about his original interview with Fred Rogers, and continues with the friendship that developed over the years between the two. It includes emails, phone conversations and personal visits that the two men enjoyed throughout the years, as well as the spiritual topics that they frequently discussed. The book ends with the passing of Fred Rogers, but with a reminder that as humans and as Christians, we will always have both the memories of things here on earth and the anticipation of a life beyond. The book will make you laugh, cry and appreciate the Mister Rogers that we all grew to love in our own way.

If you'd like to read this book, please ask Joe. I was lucky enough to borrow his copy and enjoy this book cover to cover!

CHECK US OUT ON THE NET

Faith and Life Blog:

[www.joemhinds3@wordpress.com](http://www.joemhinds3.wordpress.com)

Sermon Blog:

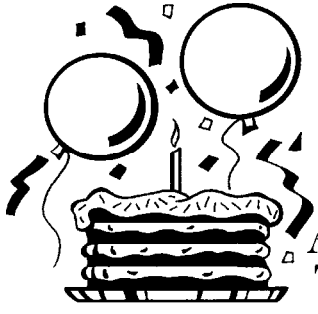
www.hindssermons.wordpress.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com

search: **Sidney First Presbyterian Church**

HAPPY



BIRTHDAY

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4: **Mason Hughes**
- 5: **Terri Shook**
Dale Barr
- 6: **Judy Harp**
- 8: **Scott Hughes**
- 10: **Elizabeth Palmer**
- 12: **Charles Elliot**
Mallory Hughes
- 15: **Jerry Kauffman**
- 16: **Dottie Hunt**
- 21: **Inez Godinez**
- 27: **Derrill Davis Sr.**
- 28: **Irene McVey**
Brenda Cruz
Nicole Wiley
- 30: **Grace Lochard**



RECIPE CORNER

EASY DECADENT TRUFFLES

Ingredients:

1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened

3 cups confectioners' sugar, sifted

3 cups semisweet chocolate chips, melted

1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

Directions:

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar until well blended. Stir in melted chocolate and vanilla until no streaks remain. Refrigerate for about 1 hour. Shape into 1 inch balls.

Footnotes:

Roll truffles in ground walnuts (or any ground nuts), cocoa, coconut, confectioners' sugar, candy sprinkles, etc.



MULTIMEDIA COMMITTEE

Members are needed to run the equipment during services and special events.

If you are interested in being part of this new committee, please contact Lyle or Rita Drew. Instructional classes will be held once equipment has been installed; all ages are welcome.



NEW!
Web Page
www.sidnefirstpres.org

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Sidney, Ohio 45365
Phone: 937-492-4597
Fax: 937-497-1265
Email: sidney1stpres@embarqmail.com



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Rev. Joe Hinds, Pastor

Sarah Steenrod, Program Coordinator (ssteenrod@embarqmail.com)

Anne Abbott, Administrative Assistant (sidney1stpres@embarqmail.com)

Matthew & Anne Abbott, Youth Leaders (theabbotts04@yahoo.com)

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

Session

(meet the 2nd Thursday of each month)

Dale Barr
Doug Bomba
Charles Castle
Darryl Cloud
Dawn Davis
Jesus Gonzales
Roger Grinstead
Scott Kelly
Don Lochard
Ed Miller
Mardie Milligan
Rick Steenrod
Steve Stilwell

Deacons

(meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month)

Carol Barr
Annette Castle
Sondra Dunham
Rosanna Grinstead
Susan Hughes
Lois Knaggs
Yvonne Lochard
Kay Miller
Carol Milligan
JoAnn Reineke
Sally Stilwell
Martha Vargas