

First Presbyterian

Open Hearts Open Minds

April 2011

Children Present Palm Sunday Program

Elementary children from Wednesday Night Live will present the story of Holy Week during worship on Palm Sunday, April 17, at 9:00 am. Songs and reading will tell the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem in triumph, his death, and his resurrection. This presentation will replace the sermon at the 9:00 am service that day.

Everyone will receive a palm in worship that day, and all children are encouraged to join in the opening palm parade. The palm parade will be a feature at both worship services.

Breakfast Served April 17, 10-11

Easter Egg Hunt Planned for Young Children at 10:30

The KIN (Kids in Need) team will serve their annual breakfast on Palm Sunday, April 17, between the worship services. The menu features French toast sticks, eggs, sausage, and fruit. The team requests a free-will donation. This is the primary fund-raiser for the team's work throughout the year. The KIN team works with youth in the juvenile justice system to provide positive activities and encouragement.

At 10:30, preschool and elementary children will enjoy an Easter egg hunt, searching for plastic eggs filled with prizes. The hunters will be divided by age to level the field.

Invite a friend to join you for this special day of celebration.

A message from the Director for Compassion, Peace, and Justice

Dear colleagues in ministry,

In 2010 we witnessed devastations that left us counting the seconds, minutes, and days. The earthquake in Haiti lasted over forty seconds, the Gulf Coast oil spill went on for three months, and Chile's earthquake occurred for about ninety seconds. In sixty minutes of One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), your congregation can make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Presbyterians' gifts to OGHS are for all God's children. Following the January earthquake that struck the island nation of Haiti, through a shared grant project, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program provided seeds and tools for thousands of Haitian farmers to grow enough food for hundreds of thousands of displaced Haitians. This project allows Haitians to participate in their own recovery and makes use of indigenous seeds and grain. In the United States, Self-Development of People has partnered with community leaders in Detroit, Michigan, to use vacant lots to cooperatively grow and produce foods, providing a base for long-term community redevelopment.

The Mission of First Presbyterian

As followers of Jesus Christ, we will nurture a Christian community that:

- grows* in God's love,
- cares* for one another, and
- responds* to the needs of the world.

Examples of how First Pres strives to fulfill its mission:

- Grow** - page 2
- Care** - page 4
- Respond** - page 8



Through your gifts, the One Great Hour of Sharing offering will continue to be a reminder that through the simple act of sharing, we are blessed and experience God's abundance in surprising ways.

Sara Pottschmidt Lisherness

Presbyterian Church (USA)

note: OGHS is received on April 17 and/or 24. Use the enclosed envelope to make your generous gift.

Maundy Thursday Worship and Communion April 21

Our traditional communion service on Maundy Thursday will remember the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples. Simple music, scripture, and readings, will also highlight the story of Good Friday, when Jesus was crucified. This brief service is meditative and suitable for families. It will begin at 7:30 pm. Please join us.

Wednesday Night Live Pool Party April 20

Wednesday Night Live elementary children will end their great year with a pool party April 20 from 3:00-5:00. Car pools, please bring children to the Gallery Apartments, building K. Bring swim suits and towels. There will be no meal served this evening, so please pick your children up promptly at 5:00 pm.

The WNL youth program will end their year on April 6. Youth in grades 6-9 will enjoy pizza and year-end celebrations.

Senior Youth will meet April 6, 13, and 27 at Caribou Coffee. Programs will focus on looking ahead to college and opportunities for mission on campus next year.

Visit the Church Library

A wide selection of books & magazines.



Check out books using the pocket card. Children's books are also available in the Gloriosa Room.

WNL Youth Attend Presentation On Islam



On Wednesday, March 23 the youth of Wednesday Night Live (WNL) attend a presentation on Islam as part of Interfaith Week at the University of North Dakota.

The evening began with food prepared by the Arabic student organization featuring food from their culture. Following dinner representatives from the Interfaith Youth Core (IYC), an international nonprofit building the interfaith youth movement, led the participants in brief table discussions about where does one find peace, how does a building have to look in order for it to have spiritual significance, how does one communicate with their god and many more.

Masaab, a grad student at UND, shared a presentation about his Islam faith. "It was pretty interesting, especially why he wears a skul cap, I am glad he let us ask him questions" said one of the youth that participated from First Pres.

Masaab gave a brief history of Islam, what it means, for him, to be Islamic in North Dakota and how the five pillars of Islam impact his life. Several of Masaab's friends from the community also shared in answering questions.

"I was surprised that our God is also the God of Islam, I didn't know that" reported one of the young men from First Pres. "I guess that is why you (the youth leader) want us to go to these things".

The conversations on Islam continue on the UND campus at Christus Rex in the lounge on Wednesdays at 7:30pm, they are free and open to the public. The topics will be, beginning March 30 - Islam Daily Practices: Prayer, Fasting and Food; April 6- Islam and Women; April 13-Islam and Science.

These events are sponsored in part by Campus Ministry Association which First Presbyterian is a part of.

Current Classes

A New Earth book discussion
Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30 am

Faith Basics
for Progressive Christians
Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm

Devotionals Available on the Resource Table

The Upper Room
These Days

A \$1 donation is suggested to help defray subscription costs.

Walk the Labyrinth

April 10, 11 & 12
6:30-8:30 p.m.



Sunday Worship Times

Family Service 9:00 am
(children's programs available)
Traditional Service 11:00 am



Communion

Sunday, April 24
9 & 11 worship

Being Aware Will Help

By JoAnn Parnell

Being aware of where the fire extinguishers are located could save part of the building and possibly a life.

There are three (3) extinguishers located in the church building, in very obvious places, but as I sat down to write this article I could not locate them by memory. So I took a tour of the church.



Jerry Schue shows the location of the fire extinguisher in the church kitchen.

Searching the kitchen first I noticed the bright red fire blanket box, I did not notice the fire extinguisher next to the blanket box, that was a surprise. The second extinguisher is located by the library next to the piano in the brick wall on the way to the restrooms. The third is across from the nursery at the end of the center main hallway.

I came to the conclusion, during my search, I was not looking for the correct thing. In my mind I was looking for a red fire extinguisher hanging on the wall, instead, we have nice cubbies built just for the extinguisher. A more contemporary design, but, not what I was looking for.

I invite adults and children to take a tour around the church building and familiarize themselves with the location of the extinguishers. It just makes sense to be prepared.

Benefit for Denielle Barrett March 27

Lake Agassiz School friends sponsored a benefit for Denielle Barrett, a First Pres member who recently had surgery in Minneapolis. Food and a silent auction helped raise funds to defray medical expenses. The First Pres quilters helped supply auction items. Thanks to those who have helped the Barrett family by supporting the benefit or bringing food to help during the recovery time.

Women from Family of God Lutheran Church walked the labyrinth in March for their monthly program. The labyrinth is open monthly for individual walks or group programs. Soon the outdoor labyrinth will be open whenever weather permits. Thanks to the labyrinth team for this important ministry.

Parkwood Communion

First Presbyterian serves communion at Parkwood on the first Wednesday of "odd-numbered" months. The parish nurses serve coffee and refreshments following the service. Join us in May, July, September, and November at 1:30 on Wednesday afternoon.

Mendenhall Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, April 16

9:30 am

Reservations by April 11

773-2469

\$5.00 per person

all women welcome



The parish nurses and the First Friends visit those persons in the hospital, as does Pastor Gretchen. However, we have no way of knowing there is a need unless you give us a call. Please tell us when someone would like a brief call in the hospital or nursing home. (775-5545)

Office Hours

M-F 9-3

*Gretchen is available M-F.
JoAnn is available M & W.
Matt Purpur works 11-3 daily.
John Norman (custodian)
M, T, Th, F 3-5:30*

Prayer Chain

To request prayer for yourself or a loved one, please call:

Bonny Crow at 775-6425
or email Gretchen Graf at
ggraf@gra.midco.net

Please secure permission before using a person's full name in your request.

A Resting Place in the Church for Loved Ones

First Presbyterian Columbarium



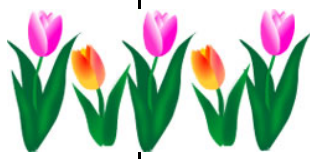

For information contact
John Whitcomb at
775-2884

Caring Cards

Your signature on Sunday morning sends God's love in Monday's mail.



Cards are sent for illness, sympathy, new babies, and birthdays of those 80 or older.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Sunday Worship: 9a Contemporary Worship 11a Traditional Worship 2p Hope Korean Worship</p>					<p>1 9:30a Bulletin Folding 6p Korean Young Adults</p>	<p>2 7-8:30a Korean Bible Study 8a Men's Breakfast 9:30a Church Quilters</p>
<p>3 Curt Biller preaches 7-8:30a Korean Bible Study 10:10 KIN team 10:15a Choir 2-6p Korean Worship 5p Team Leaders</p>	<p>4 1p *Community Quilters 1p Staff Meeting 7p Meditation</p>	<p>5 10a <i>New Earth</i> class 1-3/6-8p *Community Quilters 7p Faith Basics</p>	<p>6 1p Parish Nurses available Wednesday Night Live 3:00p Elementary 4:30p Finance Team 5:30p Supper 5:30p Youth 6p Church Quilters 6:15p Worship 8p Senior High @ Caribou</p>	<p>7 5:30p *Yoga 6p DreamBeThinkDo @ Gretchen's</p>	<p>8 9:30a Bulletin Folding 3-8p Fancy Dancy set up</p>	<p>9 7-8:30a Korean Bible Study 9:30a Church Quilters 1-3p Fancy Dancy</p>
Youth Retreat—Crystal Springs						
<p>10 7-8:30a Korean Bible Study 10:10 strategic plan 10:15 Choir 12p Labyrinth set-up 2-6p Korean Worship 4p Praise Team 6p Worship Planning</p>	<p>11 1p *Community Quilters 1p Staff Meeting</p>	<p>12 10a <i>New Earth</i> class 1-3/6-8p *Community Quilters 7 pm Faith Basics</p>	<p>13 1p Parish Nurses Wednesday Night Live 3:00p Elementary 5:30p Supper 6p Church Quilters 6:45p First Friends NO labyrinth take-down 8p Senior High @ Caribou</p>	<p>14 5:30p *Yoga 7p Session</p>	<p>15 9:30a Bulletin Folding 7-10:30p Christian Concert Newsletter articles are due</p>	<p>16 7-8:30a Korean Bible Study 9:30a Church Quilters</p>
6:30-8:30p Labyrinth Open						
<p>17 7-8:30a Korean Bible Study 9:00a Children's Program 10-11a KIN Breakfast 10:30a Easter Egg Hunt 10:15 Choir 12:30 confirmation dinner 2-6p Korean Worship</p>	<p>18 1p *Community Quilters 1p Staff Meeting 7p Meditation</p>	<p>19 10a <i>New Earth</i> class 1-3/6-8 *Community Quilters 7 p Faith Basics</p>	<p>20 1p Parish Nurses 3-5p WNL swim party @ Gallery Apts bldg K 6p Church Quilters No sr. highs</p>	<p>21 1:30p Afternoon Book Club 2:00 p AfterEve Book Group @ Sandi's 5:30p *Yoga 6:00p KIN @ Day Report 7:30 Maundy Thursday worship</p>	<p>22 9:30a Bulletin Folding</p>	<p>23 7-8:30a Korean Bible Study 9:30a Church Quilters</p>
<p>24 Easter Communion 7-8:30a Korean Bible Study 10a Confirmation reception 10:15a Choir 2-6p Korean Worship 4p Praise Team 6p Worship Planning</p>	<p>25 1p *Community Quilters Church Office Closed</p>	<p>26 10a <i>New Earth</i> class 1-3/6-8p *Community Quilters 7p Faith Basics</p>	<p>27 1p Newsletter Assembly 1p Parish Nurses 6p Church Quilters 8p Senior High @ Caribou</p>	<p>28 5:30p *Yoga 6 p Quilts & Coffee</p>	<p>29 9:30a Bulletin Folding 6p Korean Young Adults</p>	<p>30 7-8:30a Korean Bible Study 9:30a Church Quilters</p>

April Birthdays

- 1 Grace Paranica
- 2 Howard Smith
- 8 Ken Hallgrimson
- 11 Darlyne Hariman
- 13 Devin Sherve
- 15 Karen James
Tad McGurk
- 18 Lois MacGregor
Mikayla McNeely
- 19 Casey Hettervig
Susan Sheppard
- 21 John Whitcomb
- 23 Donna Helgerson
- 25 Paul Chan
Chad Moses



Wedding Congratulations!



Luke & Laura Ermer
February 26

Scott & Vicke (Haugen) Sansburn
March 25

David & Kari (Flanders) Hill
March 26

Because our mailing list has been trimmed in recent months, we are mailing this newsletter to everyone, including those who were on the email list. We need 200 newsletters to qualify for bulk mail.

If you don't want a print copy, please recycle yours. The newsletter is always available online at www.firstpresgf.org. Thank you.

For your convenience:

Auto-deduction of your monthly pledges to the General Fund is available on or shortly after the 18th of each month.

Contact us at 775-5545. or pick up a form on Sundays.



We're **GROWING** disciples of Jesus who...

GROW in God's love through...
weekly **worship**
regular group, family & personal **study**

CARE for one another through...
daily **prayer**
friendships in our church community

RESPOND to the needs of the world through...
service in and beyond First Presbyterian
generous **giving**

We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. (Ephesians 4:15)

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Matt Purpur	<i>Administrative Associate</i>	firstpres@firstpresgf.org
John Norman	<i>Custodian</i>	

Heifer Project Benefits from Noisy Offering

The children of the church enjoy collecting your loose change each Sunday for the Heifer Project. Recently someone brought in \$173 from a gallon of change collected at home. A generous donation bought the camel, helping us toward our goal of buying one of each animal we see in a nativity set. We deposited more than \$200 from the change jar in March. Heifer Project international supplies farm animals to help families become self-sufficient and provide healthy food for communities. Next goal: the donkey!



Fancy Dancy Daughter Day April 9

Fancy Dancy Daughter Day will be April 9th from 1pm to 3pm at First Presbyterian church. This event is open to the public at a cost of \$5 pre adult and children are free.

Participants can look forward to some of the same opportunities as last year, which included, dress up clothes, hats, make up, nail polish, up do's, crafts and a photo portrait. New this year will be a tea party, the opportunity to learn some dance moves and a walk on runway.

Last year around fifty young ladies from the community participated in the first Fancy Dancy Daughter Day at First Pres. When asked if this was an event that should be annual the response was one hundred percent YES. So it is the pleasure of the Fancy Dancy team to offer this event to the community again.

The Fancy Dancy team considers this event an opportunity for outreach to the community. It is building a bridge between the community and people who participate in the life of this church. When people participate in the outreach event they become familiar with the building and the people associated with it. Attending this church, hopefully, becomes an option to them because they have already met the folks that help with the event and have had a positive experience, they will like the feel of First Pres.

Fancy Dancy also builds on the priorities listed in the new strategic plan. It provides an opportunity for members to broaden their participation, priority number two, and to increase membership, priority number one.

Posters and postcards advertising Fancy Dancy are available in the great room. Please grab as many as you can and give them to friends and families that you know. Your help in promoting Fancy Dancy is greatly appreciated.



Helping troubled youth hear the songs of their hearts.

The KIN (Kids in Need) Team took the youth from Day Report to climb the rock wall in March. In April they'll color Easter eggs. The Palm Sunday breakfast and the concert concessions on April 15 will support the work of the team in the year ahead. KIN helps the church encourage youth who are ready for positive change in their lives.

Heifer Project International



Help us send animals to families around the world by supporting the noisy offering.



REUSE * REDUCE * RECYCLE

Look for recycle baskets throughout the church..

Use a washable mug to help reduce waste.



We serve **Fair Trade Certified coffee and tea.**
A cup of justice

Coffee and tea are available for purchase. See the display in the Great Room.

Cappuccino



is available in the church kitchen. Contribute \$1.00 to support church projects.

Recycle for Missions

- pop can tops for Ronald McDonald House
- gently used current magazines for Grand Forks Homes
- pop cans for Habitat for Humanity
- household items in good condition and some furniture for Refugee Resettlement

Bring magazines and aluminum to church and contact New American Services at 772-8552 about household items.

From the Pastor...



Dear Friends,

We're working together to implement our church's new strategic plan. The first two priorities have generated lively discussion in our brainstorming sessions on Sunday mornings. These two priorities call for us to increase our membership (measured by higher worship attendance) and broaden the participation of members and friends in both study and service options.

How can YOU help our church grow. Here are just a few of the ideas:

- Come to worship! Guests want to come back to a place where the sanctuary is full.
- Offer to be a greeter on Sunday morning and welcome people at the door.
- Give one Sunday a month in the nursery so parents of young people can focus on worship. We love children in our worship services, but the children also need a place to play in age-appropriate ways.
- Invite a friend to join you on Sunday morning or for one of the many classes we offer throughout the year.
- Connect with someone you haven't met before during the greeting time at the beginning of worship, then invite that person to join you for coffee after worship so you can get to know them better.
- Talk about the great opportunities for learning and service we offer for all ages. If a friend or co-worker expresses interest, invite them to come check things out in person.
- When you get a facebook message about an event at First Pres, "share" it so all your friends can see.

God is doing great things through us at First Pres. Help us get out the good word!

Justen

Rock Concert Comes April 15

Local Christian bands and others will present a concert in our sanctuary April 15 from 7:00-10:30 pm. A promoter from the Twin Cities does a monthly concert in Grand Forks and needed a place for April. Of course we said yes. We get to provide concessions, and proceeds from those sales will support KIN. Youth from the area are welcome. Watch for details in the church bulletin and local media.

Session Notes

Dennis Junk & Fred MacGregor are serving as clerks of session while John Whitcomb is in warmer climes.



Session met March 10. Craig Knutson joined us from the confirmation class.

Conversation for the evening focused on the ways we're working on our strategic plan. Monthly meetings will focus on each priority of the plan until we've heard from the congregation on all of them. At any time, persons with ideas for ways to reach our goals are encouraged to put their suggestions into action. The conversation on April 10 will focus on the priority to clarify team structures. Bring your questions and suggestions about teams to the great room that day from 10-11.

Karen Tankersley was our commissioner to the special presbytery meeting March 19 in Fargo. The meeting provided for debate and voting on three important amendments to our Book of Order and Book of Confessions. Our presbytery turned down all three changes, but other presbyteries seem to be passing them. It takes positive votes from 51% of presbyteries to approve a change in the Book of Order and from 75% of presbyteries to add to the Book of Confessions.

Twenty-four quilters enjoyed the March retreat, and First Pres folks fed them lunch and dinner. Funds from this month's retreat will help us upgrade some very old office computers. The next quilt retreat is June 25.



Strategic Plan Conversation

***Sunday, April 10
10:10 in the great room***

**Priority 3:
clarify team structures**

**Help volunteer in the
nursery at 9:00 a.m.
once a month.**

*Call the church
Office
to sign up.
701-775-5545*



Fancy Dancy Daughter Day

- dress up clothes
- hair, nails, and makeup to try
- fancy tea party
- fashion show
- crafts and photos

April 9th 1:00-3:00 pm



adults \$5.00 children free

Come join the fun!

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 17

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAM 9:00 AM
BREAKFAST 10-11
EASTER EGG HUNT 10:30**

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 21

COMMUNION 7:30 PM

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 24

**WORSHIP & COMMUNION
9:00 & 11:00 AM
CONFIRMATION 9:00 AM
RECEPTION 10-11**

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

**Due to busy schedules
our April 30 garage sale
has been postponed.**

**If you'd like to help with the sale
later this summer,
contact JoAnn at 775-5545.**

Looking for something to do this summer?

**Brochures for these opportunities are available at
church. See the display in the great room.**

Presbyterian Clearwater Forest Summer Bible Camp

For more information visit www.clearwaterforest.org or
call the Clearwater Forest Office at 218-678-2325.

Synod School - Buena Vista University, Storm Lake IA

For the entire family of all ages

July 24-29, 2011

For more information contact Diana Barber at:
dbarber@lakesandprairies.org or call 800-328-1880
*First Pres provides scholarships for these summer activities.
Ask Pastor Gretchen for more information today.*