

First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn
550 North Main Street
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-4497



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
of GLEN ELLYN

TIDINGS

January 2012

Volume 17, Issue 1



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning

9:00am~Sanctuary

Contemporary

11:15am~Sanctuary

Traditional

Worship Schedule

Jan. 1 and 8

10:00am

Jan. 15, 22, 29

9:00 am Contemporary

11:15 am Traditional

Office hours

Monday - Friday 9 - 5

The church office will be
closed Monday, Jan 2.

Check our website for monthly
events www.firstpresge.org

First Presbyterian
Church of Glen Ellyn

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Please send articles for Tidings
to bcipriano@firstpresge.org,
by the 15th of each month.

Together LED BY THE WORD AND SPIRIT
we follow Christ's Call

LIVE IN LOVE | ENJOY GOD | BUILD COMMUNITY | TEACH THE FAITH
ANNOUNCE FORGIVENESS | TRANSFORM THE WORLD

Seeking justice, loving mercy, walking humbly with God.
COME WALK WITH US...COME WALK WITH GOD.

Dear Friends,

When you receive this, we will be just a matter of days away from meeting our candidate for Senior Pastor. This is such an exciting time in the life of the church!

First, I'd like to express my appreciation for the tremendous work that our Pastor Nominating Committee has done. The amount of time they have spent in prayer, discussion, sermon-listening and discernment has been amazing. They have done a lot of hard work on our behalf, and they are presenting us with a wonderful candidate. Please be sure to express your thanks to Peggy Peterson, Gordon Murphy, Debbie Page, Duska Pearson, Em Griffin, Kevin Minkus and Mark Birchler.

Please prepare yourself for Sunday, January 8th, our Candidating Sunday. What I mean is this: we want to enter worship with a sense of both expectation and celebration. We are not gathering just to vote on someone; we are gathering to celebrate God's work among us and to begin moving into the next chapter of life and ministry that God has been planning for us. So please pray for our candidate as he prepares to preach to us for the first time, for his family as they meet us for the first time and for a real excitement for all of us about what God is beginning.

Remember the little wooden "baton" that I gave to everyone when I first arrived? Please bring your baton to church on January 8th, and remember that we'll have one service beginning at 10:00 am. After our new Pastor preaches, we'll have a Congregational Meeting to vote on his candidacy. After this we'll have a wonderful reception together in Celebration Hall.

People are generally curious about what happens next, so let me give you a brief overview. After the Candidating Weekend, our new Pastor will return home and let his church know that he is taking a new call from God. I can tell you from experience that this is hard, and "leaving well" takes some time. As well as packing up his household and moving, he will be saying goodbye to folks whom he loves and who love him. He will arrive at the end of February and begin his ministry. It will be important that we keep him and his family in prayer during this time of saying goodbye.

I am thankful that God has led us to this person and to this time, and that God will lead us forward together. Thanks be to God!

Alleluia!

Dave Bianchin

Welcome New Pastor

There will be a reception on January 8 at 11:45 am in Celebration Hall to welcome the new pastor. Following the meeting of the congregation on that day, we will gather for a time of greeting and fellowship. All are invited to attend.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Please plan to be at church on Sunday, January 29, 2012, for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, which will immediately follow the later morning worship service. At the meeting we will review the Annual Report for 2011, elect the Nominating Committee for 2012, and consider any other business before the congregation. There will be a special presentation on the Capital Debt Reduction campaign that will happen in early 2012, and we'll look ahead to plans for welcoming our new Pastor. Please plan to be there!

The MISSIONS TEAM Invites You to SAVE THE DATE of January 17

Unique Opportunity to Hear Church-Planting Pioneer Patrick Johnstone Speak

Patrick Johnstone, a well-known leader in the church-planting movement and the author of six editions of Operation World, has written a new book. The Future of the Global Church weaves together the strands of history, demographics and religion to graphical and textual overview of the past, present and possible future of the Church around the world. The book highlights the impact of evangelical Christianity over the past two centuries, as well as the growth of Evangelicalism over the past half-century. Patrick focuses clearly on the unfinished task of world evangelization, with a special emphasis on the world's least-evangelized peoples and on the role of the local church in tackling this unfinished task. Come meet Patrick and hear him talk about his book.

When: Tuesday, January 17; 7:00 pm
Where: First Presbyterian Church, Glen Ellyn IL; church parlor
RSVP: jrosby@ivpress.com

Adult Education Classes

January 15 through February 19, 10:15 to 11:00am

1) “Spiritual Formation in a Culture of Distraction” - Bob Fryling
We live in a culture of busyness and distraction. We have too many things to do and it is hard to focus on our spiritual lives in the middle of pressing responsibilities and time demands. How can we grow spiritually in our walk with God when we are running everywhere else?

This class is based on Bob Fryling’s book *“The Leadership Ellipse: Shaping How We Lead by Who We Are”* but it is not just for organizational leaders. It is for anyone who wants to grow in faith while influencing others in church, family and work places. The class will examine both external cultural issues as well as internal challenges while addressing topics like humility and power, resting and action, attentiveness and wholeheartedness.

The class will be taught in dialog fashion by Bob Fryling, member of First Pres. and Publisher of InterVarsity Press. The book is not a requirement but will be available for \$10.
Location: The Parlor (Main Level)

2) “The Apostles Creed: The Christian Faith in a Nutshell” – Jennifer and David McNutt

The Apostles’ Creed is one of the most significant and unifying statements of the Christian faith, and it is part of our Book of Confessions in the PC (USA). This six-session study will explore the creed by drawing upon Scripture and the writings of theologians from within the Reformed tradition including Zwingli, Calvin, Edwards, and Barth.

Week 1: The Apostles’ Creed: Background, Development & Significance

Week 2: God as Creator

Week 3: The Life & Death of Jesus Christ

Week 4: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Week 5: The Holy Spirit

Week 6: The Church

The class will include a brief lecture as well as opportunities for discussion and questions. It will be taught by the Rev. Dr. Jennifer McNutt and David McNutt, faculty in the Biblical and Theological Studies Department of Wheaton College.

Location: Room 43 (Lower Level)

Stamps for Missions

Imagine you are visiting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, worshipping at a church in the village. Many have helped build this church with things they had on hand. The men and young people have chopped large poles for the frame of the church, smaller poles are to be tied to the beams to form the framework for the sides and roof of the church. They’ve cut and split vines with which to tie the poles, sticks and grass. The women helped cut the grass for the roof and tied it in big bundles, carried it on their heads to the church site. The grass was then separated and tied in thick handfuls, laid closely to-

gether and tied to the small sticks, the “ribs” of the roof frame. The children have helped bring the palm fronds to stick in between the supports to make the sides of the church. It has taken many trips to the forest and grass plains for the supplies, all of which has been carried on the heads of the men and women. Is is THEIR church in a real sense. They’ve worked for it.

The day has come for the first worship service in the church. Forked poles have been set in the ground and split logs have been laid between them. These are the seats for those who come to worship. There are no backs to lean



Money should fund your God-given dreams, not determine them.

Financial Peace University (FPU) is a 13-week video curriculum taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey, that incorporates small-group discussions to encourage accountability and discipleship. This program teaches you to achieve your financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before.

Come to a CLASS PREVIEW on Sunday, January 22 at 10:15 a.m. in the Conference Room located on the upper level. The 2-hour classes will meet at a time to be determined.

Contact Person: Steve Norvid, Elder

(see <http://www.daveramsey.com/church/home/> for more information on the program)

Looking for a place to serve at First Pres? For ideas, check out the Volunteer page on the church website. Go to www.firstpresge.org, click on “Serve” and then click on “Volunteer at First Pres.”

Did you know you can listen to past sermons online? Go to www.firstpresge.org, click on “Worship” and then click on “Listen to Sermons.”

Book Group

Friends, I would like to read Daniel Walker’s “God in a Brothel” about global human trafficking. You can read an excerpt on Google Books. Would anyone else like to read this book and get together a few times to discuss it?

Cathy Colten

against. No hymn racks in the pews, no hymnals.

Is it any wonder that the evangelism department of the church asked Stamps for Missions to help them print a small hymnal of selected hymns so the congregation can learn hymns and participate in worship? Stamps for Missions sent \$1,500 this week and the church press is ready to produce the hymnal. Thank you for being a part of Stamps for Missions and helping to produce this hymnal.

*In Christ’s Service,
Peggy Reinhold*

End-of-Year Giving Reminders!

The church office can receive your end-of-year giving through December 31, if your donation is mailed and postmarked by that date, or if it’s initiated online (or e-trade) before midnight! The church office is open December 28th and 29th of that week if you’d like to drop it off.

Flower Donations

Would you like to donate flowers for the sanctuary in 2012? The flower chart is hanging in the Gathering Place near the balcony stairs. If you wish, add your name next to an available date. We’ll send a reminder card at which time you will need to submit a check for \$35 to the church. Thank you for helping beautify the sanctuary for worship.

Thank you,

Deacons. Marti and Bill Thompson want to thank the Deacons for the beautiful poinsettia plant that Jim Covert delivered recently. We appreciate the care the Deacons give to the shut-ins. Bill has been blessed with visits from Curt Mattson, Nathan Chaney (former deacons) and now Scott Daniels and Jim Covert. To receive communion and visit with these men has been a spiritual blessing to Bill. Marti also appreciates the willingness of Scott and Jim to do a few odd jobs. Just so you know, Scott is a great flood lights changer...doesn’t even need a ladder!

Thanks, Guys. Marti and Bill

Christmas Greetings from the Congo

Pastor Mulumba Mukundi and his wife, Kapinga, send Christmas Greetings to our congregation from SNEL-Malandji Church, our partner church in Kananga, Congo.

Pastor Mulumba has visited First Pres several times since his first visit in 1997. He came in 1997 at our congregation’s invitation through a Presbyterian program called “Partners to the USA” when he was with us for 6 weeks. His daughter, Gina Ndaya, lived with Jerry and Lois Andrews from 2000 while attending Timothy Christian High School and college. Two members of the SNEL Church, Ilunga and Bantu, visited in 2007, staying with members of First Pres while they were here.

Lunch Bunch January Fun!

Adults are invited to enjoy a delightful afternoon at Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, January 18 at 12 Noon in the Gathering Place. A delicious catered hot lunch, complete with home-made desserts will be served. Following lunch, Larry Bergnach, an entertaining and humorous speaker will present: Famous Pairs in the Golden Age of TV and Radio. RSVP by Monday January 16 before noon. Donation for lunch is \$6. Invite a friend to join you for this fun event.

Dear Deacon Board,

God chooses people like you to serve communion to people like me. Thank you for recognizing him because you do it lovingly and faithfully. I am grateful for your visits. May you continue to serve him with joy. Have a great year.

Hiawatha Woolford

Day Apart 2012

Women are invited to First Presbyterian for an inspiring Day Apart featuring renowned speaker Sandy Alcorn.

“She Lives Her Life as a Gift” will be the theme of the retreat day on Saturday, Feb 11th from 9:00am – 2:30pm. Jesus is the greatest gift ever given. How can we apply our hearts toward wisdom and be intentional about our spiritual legacy? How can we pass on to generations who follow us a sense of hope and trust in a present, faithful God?

Sandy is a member of First Presbyterian and wife of Charlie Alcorn. She raised her children (Chad and Andy) in Glen Ellyn. She served on the faculty of George Williams College in Downers Grove, teaching in the graduate school of social work. She also served as Dean of the School of Social Work at Aurora University. Sandy has a passion for women’s development and working with groups of women.

Tickets for Day Apart will be \$20 (includes catered lunch) and can be purchased starting Jan 15 in the Gathering Place. All women in the community are welcome to attend this inspiring event, so please help us spread the word! Tickets can be purchased by calling First Pres at 630- 469-2007

STONES OF REMEMBRANCE

from Barbara Gosselar

[T]ake up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan,. . ., and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’, tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. . . .These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.” Joshua 4:3, 6-7 NIV

It is a new year – 2012 -- a time for reflection on what has passed our way in the last year, a time for remembrance. Throughout the Old Testament, when God taught His people or rescued them in difficult times, they erected altars of stone to remember where they had been and how they had experienced the presence and grace of God. Seeking reminders of where God has met me in the last year, I began picking up stones when I was walking the beach in Michigan recently.

- One stone is red. It reminds me of times when I was especially aware of Christ’s suffering and agony for my salvation. I can remember that He shares in my suffering, that He weeps with me, that He embraces me in my grief.
- One stone is pocked, and battered. It reminds me that when I feel my spirit battered by stress, defeated expectations, unkind words of others, or my own worries, God holds my “stone” together despite the tiny holes that sometimes invade my life.
- One stone is shaped like a heart. It reminds me that even if my heart is broken, my Savior can heal it. He loves me so very much, and will not give me more than I can bear.
- One stone has many layers. It reminds me that my life is not represented only by the last days, months or years, but by all the experiences I have had. My childhood faith, my loving parents, my

academic successes, my friendships, my children, my failed relationships, the times I have failed God. Each of these and more has added a layer to my understanding. And each of these has made my relationship with God more solid.

- One stone is streaked by water and sand. It reminds me that even circumstances or relationships that pass quickly through or over my life leave a mark. And it reminds me that Jesus recognizes those marks as part of the unique creature that I am – the person He loves.
- One stone is cut. It has a rough edge where a portion of the stone is missing. It reminds me that even those parts of me that have to be cut away ultimately make me whole in Christ. The scars have a purpose and ultimately shape me differently.
- One stone is black. It reminds me that sometimes my soul is dark and the presence of God is hard to find or recognize. Yet the light comes, the “Son” comes, and I am made pure.

These are my stones. Other stones I found form the foundation of an altar, a memorial to all that God has done in my life, in the last year, and always. Perhaps you have your own stones of remembrance. These stones will be the rocks on which the next year and the one after that will be built. Praise God for stones of remembrance!