



News from First Presbyterian Church

FIRST REPORTS

Evansville, Indiana

February 2012

From the Pastor...

February...Really?

I don't want to sound like some tired, gassed out preacher, but is it really February? Already? Would someone please explain where January went?

I think the problem is lack of snow. Not that I'm complaining, mind you, but we haven't really had a winter. This winter has been a little too warm, a little too grey, a little too much like an overture that keeps droning on without ever getting to the opening of the curtain.

January has been a terribly long prelude leading to – who knows? Of course, we want to think that spring is just a week or two away. I'd like to think that, but it's a trap. Just as soon as we begin to entertain that thought, we'll have a blizzard.

February might just surprise us. We might have such warm temperatures that we can have a Valentine's Day picnic. President's Day could be the opening day of the swim season. We could be digging out our shorts and t-shirts for the 29th of February (which we have this year) and celebrate a leap year to remember.

Then again, it might just be rainy and gloomy and chilly.

I better order more firewood.

See you in church!

Kevin Scott Fleming, pastor

PS - If you're playing our home game, you now owe One Great Hour of Sharing \$17.00.

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Worship in February

The month of February is a transitional month in worship. For the first two Sundays of the month, we complete the season of Epiphany. Our services take us to stories of how people began to “see” Jesus for who he was. Epiphany is a season of revelation and we see the “revealing” of Jesus and his mission.

The final two Sundays of the month move us into the season of Lent. On Sunday, February 19, we celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord. As part of worship, we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

The final Sunday of February is the First Sunday in Lent. We focus on some of the key words of our faith as we begin the journey toward Easter.

Worship is not just a time for us to draw closer to God. Worship is also a time when God reaches out to us and calls us into a new relationship and a new way of living.

Join us for worship throughout the month of February. What word does God have for you?

Ash Wednesday Service

We will mark Ash Wednesday on February 22, with a simple supper at 5:30 p.m. and a short service beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Join us for soup, bread, and conversation around the tables as we share our evening meal.

The Service for Ash Wednesday, including the Imposition of Ashes, will begin at 6:15 p.m. This informal service around the tables always sets just the right tone for the observance of Lent. We will be singing several pieces from the Taizé Community in France, as well as more traditional hymns and spiritual songs.

It is always helpful to know how many will be joining us for dinner. Please contact the church office (812-423-6297 or firstpresevansville.com) and let us know that you will be joining us.



“What we call the beginning is often the end, And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from.”

– T. S. Eliot



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Sunday, February 5
Sunday, February 19

8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Marking the Season

Every year, we made an audacious plan for Lent, only to realize (usually on the afternoon of the Friday following Ash Wednesday) that we haven't met our own expectations. So, we give up. After all, we tell ourselves, it's not really "required."

So let's start out thinking about a realistic Lent. What if we thought about Lent as a time to grow? That kind of growth could be aided in several practical ways. Here are three suggestions.

Participate in Worship During Lent

We'll have a special series of sermons on the Sundays of Lent that investigate some of the most important words of the Christian faith. We'll also celebrate Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter. What if your Lenten discipline included participating in all of our worship experiences?

Daily Readings

A special Lenten reading folder will be available to members and friends. These are very brief readings that can be completed in less than five minutes each day. The folders will be available throughout the building.

Offer Some Time in Service

There will be many opportunities throughout the season of Lent to offer the gift of time and service. There will be two Saturday mornings at The Diner, as well as a spring clean-up day at the church. You might also consider providing the Thursday afternoon meal for First Kids.

Mark these holy days of Lent in a way that strengthens you and helps you grow in God's love!



ChurchTalk@First Pres

A special Lenten sermon series has been prepared. Entitled *ChurchTalk*, this series of sermons focuses attention on some of the most used words in the Christian tradition.

Many times, the way we use the words of our faith today are very different from the ways the same words were used in the past. The meanings have changed and sometimes quite dramatically.

The series schedule includes:

February 26 – Faith
March 4 – Redemption
March 11 – Grace
March 18 – Justice
March 25 – Mercy
April 1 – Salvation
April 8 – Resurrection

Those are all words we have heard for a long time. But, what do they really

mean?

Join us throughout the Lenten season as we do a little "ChurchTalk." The sermons are also available online in both print and audio at firstpresevansville.com.

Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, February 5
11:30 a.m.**

**Annual review of the
Pastor's compensation**

Reuse, Reduce, Recycle at First Pres

First Pres collects various items to help local schools and non-profit agencies. Collection containers for items including box tops and ink cartridges are located in the church office. These items make a difference, so check below and see what items you can recycle!

Inkjet Printer Cartridges earn \$3.00 each and supplement the Pastor's Emergency Fund. We can recycle the following:

Lexmark cartridges 1, 2, 3, 16, 17, 20, 26, 27, 32, 33, 34, 35, 60, 80, 82, 83

HP cartridges 17, 21, 22, 28, 57, 74/74XL, 75/75XL, 901/XL, 901/XL, 60 Black, 60 Color

Canon cartridges CK-31, CK-41, CL-51, CL-211/XL, PG-40, PG-50, PG-30, PG-210/XL

Dell cartridges ALL *except* Series 7, 11, 20



Education Box tops and Campbell Soup Labels currently benefit

Tekoppel School. They are redeemed by the school for a wide variety of equipment for the classroom and playground.

Prescription Bottles are used by Matthew 25, a Henderson based health organization that provides services and screening for HIV patients. They are at Patchwork one day a week. Liquid soap products are supplied in these containers.

Aluminum Tabs from drink cans benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

Cell Phones are used by TOUCH which provides non-medical financial assistance (including transportation, utilities, housing) to local cancer patients. Usable

parts from the phones and accessories are recycled, and TOUCH receives money for each item.

Eye Glasses are recycled/reused by the Lions Club.

Travel-Sized Toiletries are used at United Caring Shelter for its 100 male residents. The shelter also provides transitional housing for 23 individuals.

Hearing Aids are reused by International Center of Bethlehem.

Don't forget that up to 3% of your grocery purchase at Schnucks can benefit the Pastor's Emergency Fund. Get your eScrip Customer Care Card at the stores' service counter or in the church office. For more information contact Lora in the church office. Last year this program provided \$625 of help.

The ever-mounting glut of waste materials is a characteristic by-product of modern "consumer society." It might even be argued that capitalism's continual need to find or generate markets means that disposability and waste have become the spine of the system. To consume means, literally, "to destroy or expend," and in the garbage crisis we confront the underlying truth of a society in which enormous productive capacities and market forces have harnessed human needs and desires, without regard to the long or even short-term future of life on the planet.

– Stuart Ewen

Who Are Our Neighbors?

A special Lenten learning experience has been designed for First Pres members and friends. *Who Is Our Neighbor?* takes seriously Jesus' reminder that we are to "love our neighbors." But, who are they?

In order to love and minister to our neighbors, we have to know a little about them. Our learning objective during Lent is to gather as much information about our neighbors and their needs as we can.

In two identical sessions, Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m., we will enter into a wide variety of discoveries that will help us get to know those who are our "neighbors."



On Thursday, February 23, we'll consider the question, "What makes our culture tick?" What are some of the things that are unique to Evansville culture? What makes our church neighborhood unique, interesting, and inviting? What makes our congregation unique, interesting, and inviting?

On Thursday, March 1, we'll take it a little farther and ask, "What has changed in Evansville culture in the past 25 years?" And while we're at it, let's take some time to think about how the culture at First Pres has changed over the past 25 years.

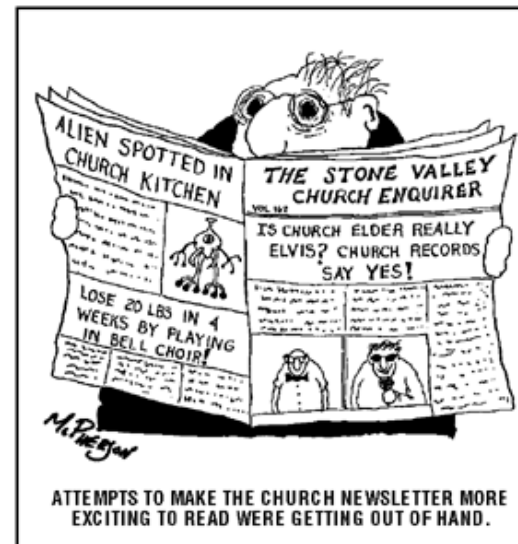
On Thursday, March 8, we add some theology to our sociology and ask, "What does God expect of us in this culture at this moment?" How can we best talk about ministry and mission? How has ministry and mission changed along with the culture in which it finds itself?

Thursday, March 15, finds us beginning to put things together. Culture, calling, and ministry come together to help us see possibilities and potential.

We finish our work on Thursday, March 22, with a discussion of our discoveries and findings. What have we uncovered? What have we learned? What might this be telling First Pres for the years ahead?

This is a practical learning experience that can produce a harvest of information and insight. There will be lots to learn and lots of fun while we're doing it!

Join us for this five-week exploration of Evansville and the part we play in its future. Join us for *Who Are Our Neighbors?*





KIRK BOULE VARD

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|---|--|
| 1 | WEDNESDAY | 12:30 p.m. | Presbyterian Women
Circle Bible Study |
| 2 | THURSDAY | 3:30 p.m.
6:15 p.m.
6:15 p.m. | First Kids
First Light at Winter Jam
Choir Rehearsal |
| 3 | FRIDAY | | |
| 4 | SATURDAY | | |
| 5 | SUNDAY | 8:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m. | Wide Awake Worship
Choir Rehearsal
Adult Sunday School
Sanctuary Worship
Congregational Meeting
Fellowship Hour |
| 6 | MONDAY | 11:00 a.m. | Staff Meeting |
| 7 | TUESDAY | 3:30 p.m.
4:00 p.m. | First Friends
Choir School |
| 8 | WEDNESDAY | 6:00 p.m. | Justice/Diversity Team |
| 9 | THURSDAY | 3:30 p.m.
6:15 p.m. | First Kids
Choir Rehearsal |
| 10 | FRIDAY | | |
| 11 | SATURDAY | | |
| 12 | SUNDAY | 8:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
6:30 p.m. | Wide Awake Worship
Choir Rehearsal
Adult Sunday School
Sanctuary Worship
Fellowship Hour
First Light |

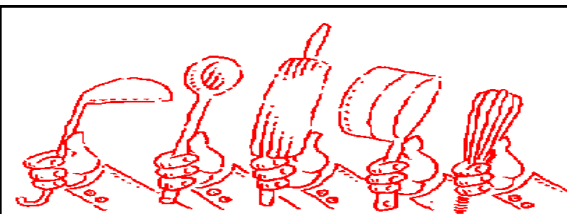
The Book Group meets every 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in Kerr Chapel. Copies of the book to be discussed, discussion questions, and a complete schedule are available in the church office. For more information on the Book Group, contact Helen Templeton (476-5851; h.templeton@insightbb.com).

On Monday, February 13, the group will discuss *Stepping Heavenward* by Elizabeth Prentiss.



- 13 MONDAY
 - 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 - 6:00 p.m. Book Group: *Stepping Heavenward*
- 14 TUESDAY *Valentine's Day*
 - 3:30 p.m. First Friends
 - 4:00 p.m. Choir School
- 15 WEDNESDAY
- 16 THURSDAY
 - 3:30 p.m. First Kids
 - 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 17 FRIDAY
- 18 SATURDAY
- 19 SUNDAY *Transfiguration*
 - 8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
 - 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
 - 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 - 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
 - 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour
- 20 MONDAY
 - 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 21 TUESDAY
 - 3:30 p.m. First Friends
 - 4:00 p.m. Choir School
 - 6:15 p.m. Hospitality/Welcome Team
 - 7:00 p.m. PFLAG

- 22 WEDNESDAY *Ash Wednesday*
 - 5:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Supper/Service
- 23 THURSDAY
 - 10:00 a.m. Who Are Our Neighbors?
 - 3:30 p.m. First Kids
 - 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
 - 6:00 p.m. Who Are Our Neighbors?
- 24 FRIDAY
- 25 SATURDAY
 - 8:45 a.m. First Pres Serves at *The Diner*
- 26 SUNDAY
 - 8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
 - 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
 - 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 - 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
 - 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour
- 27 MONDAY
 - 10:00 a.m. Mission Committee
 - 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 - 12:30 p.m. Environmental Team
- 28 TUESDAY
 - 3:30 p.m. First Friends
 - 4:00 p.m. Choir School
- 29 WEDNESDAY
 - 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting



We serve at *The Diner* at *The Potters' Wheel* on the 4th Saturday each month between 8:45 and 11:30 a.m. Please contact Ronda Hurt at 425-5991 or rondah01@wowway.com to volunteer.

Living the Questions

Beginning on Sunday, February 19, the Pastor's Class will begin a new, video-based, study. Entitled *Living the Questions*, this study brings together some of today's most interesting and prolific theologians, pastors, and fascinating lay people to discuss seven topics of interest to every disciple. There will be time for a brief discussion following every video presentation.

The topics and schedule include:

- February 19 – An Invitation to Journey
- February 26 – Thinking Theologically
- March 4 – Creativity and Stories of Creation
- March 11 – Restoring Relationships
- March 18 – Evil, Suffering, and a God of Love
- March 25 – Intimacy with God
- April 1 – Social Justice

All of us have questions about most of these subjects. With wonderful insights and comments from the video, we are sure to have some terrific discussions.

The Pastor's Class meets in the Chapel from 9:30-10:20 a.m. each Sunday morning. All are invited to take part and join in the discovery and discussion.



AIDS Holiday Project

Thank you for all of your help and support of the Tri-State AIDS Holiday Project and the World AIDS Day Service. Once again, First Pres did a great job helping those in need in our community. The project met the needs of 375 low-income households impacted by HIV and AIDS in 36 counties in Southwestern Indiana, Northwestern Kentucky and Southern Illinois. This included 560 adults and 354 children who live in low-income households and faced a bleak Christmas. For a more in-depth look at this project, you can see a video at www.aidsholidayproject.org; or contact Wally Paynter at 812-480-0204 or wallypaynter@aol.com for a copy of the DVD. You can also contact him to share any ideas you might have on how we can improve this worthwhile effort.

Fund-Raising Opportunity

Rural King Gives Back

Calling all shoppers! You can make a difference this month! During the week of February 13, shop at Rural King for your household, gardening, and pet needs. Bring your original receipts to First Pres by the end of the month. They'll be turned in and First Pres will receive 5% of the total receipts. This money will be used to help people in need.

Bible Study

Join the Circle

"Greatly Honored Are the Pure in Heart" is the topic for the February 1 Presbyterian Women Circle Bible Study of the Beatitudes. The study scriptures are Matthew 5:8; Psalm 24 and Psalm 51:1-12. Circle meets the first Wednesday of each month from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Kerr Chapel. Everyone is invited.

Dinner With Friends

The popular fellowship event is back! Join First Pres members and friends for round-robin style dinner groups this spring. The host home provides the main course and guests bring a dish to share. Held one weekend each month, Dinner with Friends is an opportunity to enjoy a meal, meet, and spend time with members and friends of the church. Each dinner will include a different group of people. The spring 2012 dates are a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday evening over the following weekends: April 20-22; May 18-20; June 22-24. The exact date will be up to the host and guests. Watch out for a sign-up sheet coming soon! Don't miss this great opportunity to enjoy a wonderful meal and spend time getting to know fellow members and friends of First Pres.

Thanks for Lending a Hand

Spotting the Errors

Did you know there are a small group of individuals who work with Lora and help proof the bulletin each and every week? We want to thank our 2011 volunteers for all their hard work and time over the past year. Thanks to Linda Arp, Bev Attinger, Elizabeth Becker, Anita & Ed Long, Peggy Newton, Ruth Orr, Gail Kelley, Bonnie Swetman, and Michelle Blake. Your help is appreciated. If you are interested in helping with proofreading, please contact Bonnie Swetman at 437-3002 or swetmans@wowway.com.



Diner Volunteers

The Mission Committee thanks all of our incredible volunteers who helped serve at *The Diner* at the Potter's Wheel in 2011.

Each month, 19 to 27 volunteers came forward to help serve, and thanks to their hard work and dedication over 3,345 hot meals were served by our team to all those who wanted a hot breakfast.

That was only possible due to the continued and enthusiastic support of our volunteers: Bill & Marylu Sonntag, Julie Lovins, Anita & Ed Long, Susan Colman, Jean Becker, Carolyn Stilwell, Julie & Olivia Williams, Krista Loewen, Tom, Susanne, Lucas, & Rachel Stein, Anne & Bill Asbury, Jim & Cathy Edrington, Francie, Oliver & Marjorie Hubbard, Emily Boyle, Paul & Adam Hartman, Kendell & Buffy Berry, David & Meret Huebner, Craig & Peg Ehlen, Susan Canfield, Kathie & Rich Siegert, Niles & Emily Rosenquist, Phyllis Wallace, Lynn Kyle, Larry & Linda Arp, Elizabeth Becker, Debbie Denton Meyer, Fran & Clayton Mosley, Abigail & Joanna Fleming, Carol Zappin, Gail Riecken, Gerald & Susie Summers, Lin Adams, Penelope & Jacqueline Pennington, Charles Luker, Karla Harper, Analisa Miranda, Elizabeth Becker, Suzanne & Tony Aiken, Susan & Don Wilson, and Sherri Stafford.

Special thanks to Ronda Hurt who continues to organize all the volunteers each and every month. And another big thank you to our cook teams of Lisa & Bob Jones, Scott Wylie, Jeanne Nussmeier, Tom Boyle, Andy Hubbard, Kathy & Ben Russell, Jingle Hagey, and Ray & Bonnie Swetman. Thanks also to Susi Canfield who organizes our cereal/juice table.

If you are interested in taking a turn at *The Diner*, please contact Ronda Hurt at 425-5991 or rondah01@wowway.com.

Where is First Pres Doing Mission?

Everywhere! Thirteen percent of First Pres' 2011 budget was dedicated to Mission efforts. Below is a list of how we used those funds.

PC(USA) refers to the Presbyterian Church of the USA. That's us and we make a direct contribution to the denomination's education programs and on-going projects. We also participate in several offerings sponsored by the denomination, such as One Great Hour of Sharing and Christmas Joy.

We collect a variety of items that are a financial asset to the charity. Those items appear in parentheses. For more information refer to the *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* article on page 4 of this issue.

Approximately \$625 was collected through e-script at Schnucks Markets. Another \$144 was earned through recycling ink cartridges. This money supplemented the Pastor's Emergency Fund. This is a great way to provide immediate help to those who need it.

Needs We Currently Support:

Local Food/Hunger: \$5,400

Tri-State food Bank (\$1,000 donation); Potters' Wheel (\$3,100 donation, money); Evansville Rescue Mission (items for Thanksgiving and Easter baskets); Farmers/Hunters Feeding Hungry (\$300 donation); Evansville Food Pantry Consortium (\$1,000 donation)

Financial Support: \$19,000

PC(USA) – regional, national, international mission (\$14,000 donation); Outreach Ministries – local emergency assistance (\$4,000 donation);

Pastor's Emergency fund – local emergency assistance (\$1,600 budget)

Local Children/Youth Education/ Training: \$23,100

Little Lambs (\$5,000 donation, volunteers); Patchwork Central (\$4,000 donation); Culver School (volunteers); Glenwood Leadership Academy (\$1,000 donation, volunteers) Lampion Center (\$1,000 donation); PC(USA) Colleges/Seminaries (\$7,100 donation); PTA clothing Bank (\$3,000 donation, volunteer shopper, Mitten Tree items); Culver Clothing Reserve (\$1,000 donation, volunteers); Tekoppel School (Campbell Labels, Education Box Tops)

Local Housing/Shelter: \$20,100

House of Bread and Peace (\$4,000 donation); United Caring Shelter (\$4,000 donation, travel size toiletries); United Caring Women's Night Shelter (\$1,000 donation); Aurora (\$3,100 donation); Reflecting Waters/Ruth's House (\$2,000 donation); Hillcrest Washington Youth Home (\$1,487.25 donation from Peacemaking Offering); Churches Embracing Offenders (\$1,500 donation); YWCA (\$2,000 donation)

Health \$3,000

Red Cross Blood Drive (donors, volunteers); Vanderburgh County Dental Clinic (\$1,000 donation); Tri-State Alliance (\$1,000 donation); AIDS Christmas Project (Christmas Gifts, drivers); TOUCH (\$1,000 donation, cell phones); Matthew 25 (donation; medicine bottles); Ronald McDonald House (drink can tabs)

Where in the world is First Pres doing mission? Here, there, and everywhere!



The Caring Connection

Caring for One Another

In the Life of Our Congregation . . .

We support:

Lois Jennings, in nursing care at the Protestant Home;
 Dorothy Becker, recuperating at home;
 Edna Vinson, following a brief hospital stay;
 Andrew, Jenny, and Maddie Singleton, following the death of Andrew's mother on January 23;
 Bob Davies, recuperating at St. Mary's following an auto accident;
 Bill Miller, at St. Mary's Hospital.

We remember in prayer:

Margaret McKinney, Bill Miller, Mary Ruth Oakley,
 Marge Oglesby, Janet Robinson, Jean Rue,
 Edna Vinson, Margaret Berryman, Sam Clifford,
 Candy Thompson.

We update our directories:

Copies of the new church directory are available for pick-up at the church. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact Lora in the church office.

And many more!

Happy February Birthday!

Ehlen, Peg	01
Jennings, Lois	01
Robertson, Sharon	02
Meeks, Marcia	04
Pang-Adams, Lin	06
Hubbard, Oliver	07
Singleton, Madeline	08
Lovins, Julie	09
Winnecke, Ralph	10
Winnecke, Shirley	10
Asbury, Bill	12
Coleman, Penny	14
Ehlen, Craig	14
Hubbard, Francie	16
Mosley, BJ	16
Russell, Ben	16
Musgrave, Margaret	17
Williams, Olivia	17
Wolf, Susie	17
Weber, Shirley	19
Summers, Gerald	21
Oglesby, Carol	22
Hubbard, Andy	26
Anderson, Mary	27
Engel, Jon	28

February							2012
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29					

“Thirty days hath September,
 April, June, and November,
 February has twenty-eight alone,
 All the rest have thirty-one;
 Excepting leap year, that's the time
 When February's days are twenty-nine.”
 – Old School Rhyme



“Away in a meadow all covered with snow
The little old groundhog looks for his shadow
The clouds in the sky determine our fate
If winter will leave us all early or late.”

– *Don Halley*

First Reports is published monthly by the First Presbyterian Church of Evansville, Indiana; the Reverend Kevin Scott Fleming, pastor. Sunday Worship Hours: 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. For more information about the congregation, please contact the church office (423-6297; firstpres@firstpresevansville.com).

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