



Revelations

May 2009

101 S. Center
P.O. Box 62
Stockbridge, MI
49285

IN THIS ISSUE

“Stillness Isn’t Just For the Birds!”

Well friends, spring is officially here, (i.e. the threat of snow has passed). And we all finally put away our winter coats. Evie is especially excited about spending more time outdoors. Not that inclement weather ever deterred her, like it did her parents. But while we were waiting for the temperature to warm up and the skies to clear, we were able to find a way to enjoy nature from our warm dry house. I relocated our birdfeeders (or beef herders as Evie calls them) to the front of the house, close to her bedroom window, so she can enjoy watching the birds as they eat. The view to the feeders is just right if she stands close to the window. Now if I can only teach her to stand still. In the morning we usually go look for birds out her window. But in her eagerness, she runs to the window or quickly pushes the blinds aside. So the multitude of visitors to the feeders immediately scatter. Though you can tell they are not far away, in the nearby bushes and trees, ready and waiting to return to the feast once they decide the coast is clear. Unfortunately, this is always after Evie has given up looking for them, because she is a perpetual motion machine. I have tried to explain that

the birds leave because they get scared when she moves around. But her response is too simply call out “birdies, birdies come here, birdies.” This struggle for her to learn about the power of stillness, reminds me, in a lot of ways, of my walk with God and the



Take some time today to notice God’s presence in the world around you. What a difference it can make!

way perpetual activity inhibits my chance of encountering God.

April was such a busy month for us - as it usually is. Andy’s birthday at the tail end of March is quickly followed by our anniversary and Eva’s birthday—plus let’s not forget Holy Week, the busiest time of the year for pastors. And of course laundry and dishes

never take a vacation. Needless to say life runs on hyper speed this time of year for the O’Leary-Meyers family. And yet we still manage to find time to sleep, eat, and watch a bit of TV on occasion. More often than not its our spiritual lives that get short shrift, when life gets too busy. As I lay in bed the other night and attempted to reflect on where I had seen God present that day—I struggled to come up with an answer. I eventually found one—but in the midst of the question I realized that I had been “too busy” for God. I knew that God was still present and at work in my life and in the world around me. But I have been moving so quickly, at such a frenetic pace, dashing from one thing to the next, I had failed to take time to recognize and acknowledge God’s presence as it presented itself in the moment. I had continually been given the gift of God’s company and special moments to commune with God, but by failing to stop and appreciate these times, I had left the present unopened and was spiritually poorer for it. But now each day, I am trying to slow down and see God so that I have something new to praise and thank God for. In Christ,

Pastor Shannon

Evie’s Corner:

Dear Church Family,
I’m so glad spring is here. This means more time on the playground and more time in the sandbox. I love to swing and slide and it’s so much more

fun when the sun’s out and I don’t have to wear my winter coat and boots. If it was up to me I’d never wear my coat and boots. But for some reason it’s not. My mom and dad say so.

But I’m not sure they remember I’m two years old now and that means I’m a big girl. Oh well, I’ll just have to remind them....

Love, Evie

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- Pastor*
Rev. Shannon M. O’Leary
- Elders*
Susan Daily
Dan Dancer
Al Davis
Jon Fillmore
Ralph Geistler
Denise Houle
Tom Taylor
- Deacons*
Katy Dancer
Doug Dault
Hester Fillmore
Lib Ford
Ella Love
John Love
Cindy Schoenberg
Andrea Stickney



In Our Prayers

Wannie Allen
Vivian Blasses (leg surgery)
Debbie Burkhart (terminal cancer)
Matt & Mindy Buurma
Barbara Busse (ministry to Tajkistan, Paleistan & Iran)
Brian Clark (leukemia)
Denny Collier (skin cancer)
Steve & Linda Collins
Darlene Davis
Connie Fisher (Joan Bumpus' sister, spot on liver)
Shaun Grumelot
Kelly Grumelot (health)
Bobby Herriman (Noah Powell's grandmother)
Erika Johnson
Grace Kester
Kylie (strength, courage, direction-Linda Cooper's niece)
Pure Mangsong (child in Bangladesh)
Brian Mason (prostate cancer)
Bob McCue (lymphoma, Roberta & Gary Ludtke's nephew)
Archie McKay (Joan Bunpus nephew, brain tumor)
Kim Manoogian (cancer)
David Meister (Min Clemon's son-terminal)
Richard Middlebrook
Ron & Nancy Montange
Claudia & Joe Moore
Bob Munsell
Ed Newell (lymphoma)
Christian Powell
Bobby Price
Jack Schaible
Lymon Shanes (Heidi Shanes' grandfather-in-law)
Jeane Stephens
Nadine Stickney
Robert Suyzer (orphanage in Uganda)
Ena Tait
Don Tippin (bone cancer)
Joanne Topping
Al Townsend

J. J. Watt
Justin Weaver (Detroit Fire Dept)
Amy White
John Workman (Iraq)
The Pastor and Leaders of our Church,
The Nominating Committee,
Camp Greenwood Presbyterian Church Camp
Our President and other world leaders,
US soldiers, Iraqi and Afghani citizens, and others at
risk in the Middle East,
The families, survivors, and
workers in all the disaster areas,
the homeless and hungry,

Iraq Presbyterian Prayer List

National Protestant Evangelical Church, Mosul,
founded in 1952.
Assyrian Evangelical Presbyterian Church,
Baghdad, founded in 1921.
National Evangelical Church, Kirkuk, founded in
1958.
National Presbyterian Church, Basra, founded in
1940.



May Birthdays

- 6 Nancy Wisman
- 6 Phyllis Van Vleck
- 8 Greg Wisman
- 10 Joyce Beauchene
- 12 Katy Dancer
- 13 Karlee Fillmore
- 17 Helen Mary Shellenbarger
- 19 Charles Bumpus
- 25 Christopher Dault

There is a greater hunger in the world for love and appreciation than there is for food.

Special Events this Month

Communion

May 3

Prepare for this special time with the Lord.



Don't forget the

Loners Luncheon

Every Thursday at 11:30 a.m.
In Werner Hall.

A great time of Fellowship for everyone who lives alone!

Holy Humor Sunday

May 3, 2009

Join with us in the gift of laughter. Dress-up outfits are encouraged and welcome.

Got a great Christian joke?

Come share the joy!



Session

Thursday, May 14

7:30 p.m.

Deacons

Sunday, May 24

Following the worship service

Morning Circle

Wednesday,

May 27

9:30 a.m.

Christian

Education Bldg.



Sunday, May 10
Mother's Day

Without Mom,
you wouldn't be here today!



Celebration
of Women

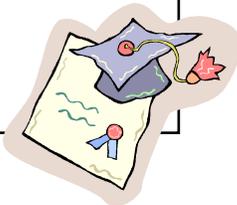


Graduation Sunday

May 31, 2009

All graduates will be recognized during the morning service.

See information sheet on next page.



May 17, 2009

During the morning service

10:30 a.m.

Luncheon following

12:00 noon

The following note was received from Outreach:



Dear Friends,

Your continuing support is wonderful. We seem to just run out of a personal hygiene item and you are bringing in a donation of that item. And you have also helped out so wonderfully with food. Thank you so very much for your support.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Kay
And

Stockbridge Community Outreach

Schedules for May

- Ushers 3 Susan Daily, Al & Darlene Davis
- 10 Ric & Jean Buurma
- 17 Donna Lowman, Doug & Linda Dault
- 24 John Love, Bill Stickney, Ed Grumelot
- 31 Stan & Susan Daily, Al & Darlene Davis
- Lectors 3 Stan Daily
- 10 Dave Avery
- 17 Katy Dancer
- 24 Linda Dancer
- 31 Buurma
- Nursery 3 Susan Daily & Ella Love
- 10 Cinnie Avery & Cindy Schoenberg
- 17 Donna Lowman & Hester Fillmore
- 24 ?
- 31 Linda Dault & Donna Lowman



We would like to gather information about our 2009 graduates and we need your help. If you have a child or grandchild who is graduating



from high school or college this year please complete the following form and turn it in to the church office by May 19, 2009. We will publish the complete list of graduates in the bulletin on Graduation Sunday, May 31 and in the June Newsletter.

Graduates name: _____

Graduating from: _____

Degree (if applicable): _____

Parents and/or Grandparents name: _____

Future plans: _____

- For those of you not receiving this in color, it is green and that is the topic. How can we go green to help save our environment. Here are just a few ideas that are interesting and helpful.
- 1. Keep reusable shopping bags in the car at all times.
- 2. Only start the dishwasher when full.
- 3. Use cloth instead of paper towels.
- 4. Start composting to reduce waste.
- 5. Recycle office paper.
- 6. Unplug lamps and appliances when not in use.
- 7. Turn the lights off when your not in the room.
- 8. Lower your dryer cost by hanging towels.
- 9. Turn down and blanket your water heater.
- 10. Save water, reduce showering time.
- 11. Don't let the water run when brushing your teeth.
- 12. Turn old clothes into new cloth napkins.
- 13. Use magazine pages, newspaper or old yellow pages as wrapping paper.
- 14. Plant a garden.
- 15. Don't drive anywhere for one day!

The Polity Page

This page is the continuance of a series to be in each month's newsletter. You will learn about the government of the Presbyterian church, the worship in the Presbyterian church and the discipline in the Presbyterian church. We hope that in this series, you will gain a better understanding of how your church works and see new opportunities for serving. Excerpts are taken from the Book of Order, the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

From G7.0300 - G7.0308 Book of Order on Government

The Particular Church

3. Meetings of the Congregation

The congregation is made up of all members on the active roll of a particular church. All such members who are present at a congregational meeting are entitled to vote.

a. The congregation shall hold an annual meeting and may hold other meetings as necessary. The annual meeting may consider such business as electing officers, hearing reports of the session along with plans for the coming year, hearing reports from the board of deacons and other organizations of the church, and transacting other business as is appropriate. It shall review the adequacy of the compensation of the pastor or pastors upon report of the prior review by the session. Public notice of the meeting shall be given on two successive Sundays.

b. Special meetings may be called for any or all of the purposes appropriate to an annual meeting or to conduct such other business as may be proper for congregational consideration. The business to be transacted shall be limited to items specifically listed in the call for the meeting.

c. All meetings of the congregation shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, or a comparable parliamentary authority adopted by the congregation, except in those cases where the Constitution provides otherwise.

a. Meetings of the congregation shall be called

(1) by the session whenever it determines such a meeting is necessary,

(2) by the presbytery whenever it determines such a meeting is necessary,

(3) by the session when requested in writing by one fourth of the members on the active roll of the particular church.

b. Public notice of the meeting shall be given on two successive Sundays. The meeting may be convened following the notice given on the second Sunday.

a. Business to be transacted at meetings of the congregation shall include the following:

(1) matters related to the electing of elders, deacons, and trustees;

(2) matters related to the calling of a pastor or pastors;

(3) matters related to the pastoral relationship, such as changing the call, or requesting or consenting or declining to consent to dissolution;

(4) matters related to buying, mortgaging, or selling real property.

(5) matters related to the permissive powers of a congregation, such as the desire to lodge all administrative

responsibility in the session, or the request to presbytery for exemption from one or more requirements because of limited size.

B. Business at congregational meetings shall be limited to the forgoing matters (1) through (5). Whenever permitted by civil law, both ecclesiastical and corporate business may be conducted at the same congregational meeting.

The quorum of a meeting of the congregation shall be not less than one tenth of the members unless the particular church upon application to the presbytery shall obtain the consent of the presbytery to a provision for a smaller quorum. A congregation by its own vote may fix a higher quorum. No meeting of fewer than three members shall be considered a congregational meeting.

The pastor shall be the moderator of all meetings of the congregation. In congregations where there are co-pastors, they shall, when present, alternately preside at meetings. When the church is without a pastor, the moderator of the session appointed by presbytery shall preside at all congregational meetings. If it is impractical for the pastor or the moderator of session appointed by presbytery to preside, he or she shall invite, with the concurrence of the session, another minister of the presbytery to preside. A presbytery may appoint a lay pastor as moderator of session to the church to which she or he is commissioned. The person assigned to the commissioned lay pastor as mentor and supervisor shall also supervise his or her work as moderator. In addition, the moderator of the session of a church with a vacant pulpit may request an elder who is a member of the presbytery's committee on ministry, the stated clerk, executive presbyter, or associate executive presbyter, to preside; such elder may not moderate the meeting of a congregation of which that elder is a member. When this is not expedient, and when both the pastor or moderator of the session and the session concur, a member of the session may be invited to preside.

The clerk of the session shall be secretary of meetings of the congregation. If the congregation does not approve the minutes of a congregational meeting before adjournment, the session shall read, correct, and approve the minutes of that congregational meeting at its next scheduled meeting and shall enter them into the permanent record. At the next meeting of the congregation, the clerk shall have the minutes available and shall report the session's action. The congregation may ask to have them read and may make additions or corrections by vote. If the clerk is unable to serve, the congregation shall elect a secretary. The minutes of each meeting of the congregation shall be attested by the moderator and the secretary and shall be entered in the minute book of the session.

Since a minister is not a member of the congregation, she or he may not vote in the meeting of the congregation. When there is a tie vote, a minister presiding shall put the question a second time. If there is a tie vote again, the motion is lost.

Next month we will begin looking at Governing Bodies beginning with the Session. Don't miss it!

Turn the page as we begin looking at another element of Christian Worship, The Lord's Supper.

The Polity Page

From W-2.400 - W-2.4005 Book of Order on Worship

4. The Lord's Supper

a. The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. During his earthly ministry Jesus shared meals with his followers as a sign of community and acceptance and as an occasion for his own ministry. He celebrated Israel's feasts of covenant commemoration,

b. In his last meal before his death, Jesus took and shared with his disciples the bread and wine, speaking of them as his body and blood, signs of the new covenant. He commended breaking bread and sharing a cup to remember and proclaim his death.

c. On the day of his resurrection, the risen Jesus made himself known to his followers in the breaking of bread. He continued to show himself to believers, by blessing and breaking bread, by preparing, serving, and sharing common meals.

The Church in the New testament devoted itself to the apostle's teaching, to fellowship, to prayers, and to the common meal. The apostle Paul delivered to the Church the tradition he had received from the risen Lord, who commanded that his followers share the bread and cup as a remembrance and a showing forth of his death until he comes. The New Testament describes the meal as a participation in Christ and with one another in the expectation of the Kingdom and as a foretaste of the messianic banquet.

In the Lord's Supper the church, gathered for worship,

- a. Blesses God for all that God has done through creation, redemption, and sanctification;
- b. Gives thanks that God is working in the world and in the Church in spite of human sin;
- c. Gratefully anticipates the fulfillment of the Kingdom Christ proclaimed, and offers itself in obedient service to God's reign.

At the Lord's Table, the Church is

- a. Renewed and empowered by the memory of Christ's life, death, resurrection, and promise to return;
- b. Sustained by Christ's pledge of undying love and continuing presence with God's people;
- c. Sealed in God's covenant of grace through partaking of Christ's self-offering.

In remembering, believers receive and trust the love of Christ present to them and to the world; they manifest the reality of the covenant of grace in reconciling and being reconciled; and they proclaim the power of Christ's reign for the renewal of the world in justice and in peace.

As the people of God bless and thank God the Father and remember Jesus Christ the Son, they call upon the Holy Spirit

- a. To lift them into Christ's presence;

- b. To accept their offering of bread and wine;
- c. To make breaking bread and sharing the cup a participation in the body and blood of Christ;
- d. To bind them with Christ and with one another;
- e. To unite them in communion with all the faithful in heaven and on earth;
- f. To nourish them with Christ's body and blood that they may mature into the fullness of Christ;
- g. To keep them faithful as Christ's body, representing Christ and doing God's work in the world.

More to follow next month on the Lord's Supper as we look at the Communion of the faithful, time, place, frequency, special occasions and more.

From D-7.000-D-7. 0300 Book of Order on Discipline

Trial In A Remedial Case

1. Conduct of Trial

The trial of a remedial case shall be conducted by a permanent judicial commission.

The trial shall be conducted formally with full decorum in a neutral place suitable to the occasion.

2. Citations and Testimony

Citations to appear at trial for parties or such witnesses as either party may request shall be signed by the moderator or clerk of the permanent judicial commission, who shall cause them to be served.

- a. Only members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) may be cited to appear.
- b. Other persons can only be requested to attend.
- c. When it is necessary in the trial to summon witnesses who are under the jurisdiction of another governing body of the church, the clerk or stated clerk of the other governing body shall, on the application of the permanent judicial commission trying the case, issue a citation to the witnesses to appear at the place of trial and give evidence as may be required.
- d. Any witness shall be entitled to receive from the party calling the witness reimbursement for expenses incurred in attendance at the trial.

A citation shall be delivered by personal service or by certified delivery. The moderator or clerk of the permanent judicial commission trying the case shall certify the fact and date of service or delivery.

If a party or a witness who is a member of the Presbyterian church (U.S.A.) fails to obey a citation, a second citation shall be issued accompanied by a notice that if the party or witness does not appear at the time appointed, unless excused for good cause, the party or witness shall be considered guilty of disobedience and contempt, and such offense may be subject to disciplinary action. (continued)

A member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) who, having been summoned as a witness and having appeared, refuse without good cause to testify, and, after warning, continues to refuse may be subject to disciplinary action.

Testimony by deposition may be taken and received in accordance with the provisions of D-14.0304.
Next month we will look at the procedures in the trial.

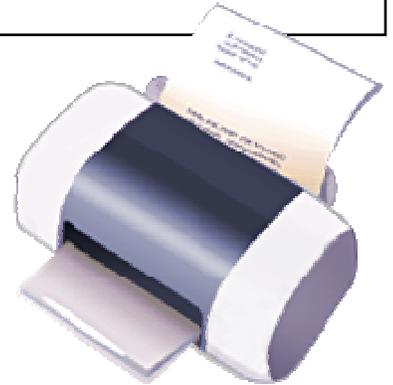


Watch for the "Polity Pages" again next month to learn more about your church and how it functions.

Let's Make A Deal!

Does anyone use a Lexmark printer? We have a black and a color cartridge in the office that are unopened that we would like to sell. The color #20 was \$20.50 and the black #70 was \$17.50. We also have some #14 (3 color and 3 black) cartridges that we no longer use. All of these cartridges are for printers that have stopped working and are not reparable or have been replaced.

Please call the office if you are interested and can use any of these. Donations to recover any of the cost would be much appreciated if you are able.



Especially for all Mothers

By Helen Steiner Rice

A Mother's Love

A mother's love is something

That no one can explain.—

It is made of deep devotion

And of sacrifice and pain.

It is endless and unselfish

And enduring, come what may,

For nothing can destroy it

Or take that love away.

It is patient and forgiving

When all others are forsaking.

And it never fails or falters

Even though the heart is breaking.

It believes beyond believing

When the world around condemns,

And it glows with all the beauty

Of the rarest, brightest gems.

It is far beyond defining,

It defies all explanation.

And it still remains a secret

Like the mysteries of creation—

A many-splendored miracle

Man cannot understand

And another wondrous evidence

Of God's tender, guiding hand.

For special words on Mother and Wife see
Proverbs 31:10-31

Mommies and kids play group

Do you have little ones that would enjoy playing with other children their age? Would you like to be part of a Saturday morning play group? Well, here is your chance! Saturdays, moms and kids can gather together in our Christian Education Building for games, playtime, fellowship, and parenting ideas. Playtime will be from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon. Come for an hour or stay for the whole time.

Bring your own treats and refreshments and we will provide the toys and space, all for FREE!

Before we begin, we need donations of clean, toys that are in good condition for any age child from babies on up. *Please note that this is not a babysitting service. We would enjoy your company as well as your child's.



SESSION MINUTES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STOCKBRIDGE

STATED SESSION MEETING

MARCH 12, 2009

*(ABRIDGED)***APPROVED MINUTES**

The meeting was held in the CE bldg and opened with prayer by the Moderator, Pastor Shannon O'Leary at 7:30 p.m. The following quorum of Elders was present: Al Davis, Jon Fillmore, Denise Houle, Susan Daily.

Elders excused: Dan Dancer, Ralph Geistler, Tom Taylor.

Docket approved with additions: A request was made by Farmers State Bank for the usage of the CE building on Tuesday, 04/21/09 for a shareholders meeting. **Motion was made to allow Farmers State Bank the usage of the CE building on Tuesday, 04/21/09 with the completion of the proper request forms.** Motion carried.

Clerk's Report

Motion was made to approve minutes of February 12, 2009 stated Session meeting as presented.

Motion carried.

Motion was made to approve minutes of March 8, 2009 called Session meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made to approve the First Presbyterian Church of Stockbridge Annual Statistical Report. Motion carried.

Commissioner's Report

Information regarding the March 10, 2009 presbytery meeting of Presbytery of Lake Michigan in Grand Rapids, Michigan was given by Jon Fillmore who represented Session as Elder Commissioner. The next Presbytery meeting will be held on June 9, 2009 – 9:30 a.m. at Camp Greenwood in Greenville.

Building and Grounds

Motion was made to reimburse the Presbytery Women's Association the expense of \$90.00 to have duct work in Church kitchen repaired. Motion carried.

Finance

Summary sheet of Income and Expense Statement (UNAUDITED) and Initial Draft of Bill Paying Procedure for First Presbyterian Church of Stockbridge was presented to Session by Jon Fillmore to make this process more efficient in the future. Discussion followed regarding the expenses of the committees and authorization of same.

Discussion

E-mail correspondence from John Best regarding his visit with the Stockbridge congregation at worship on March 1st, and with several members of the Session following, and Shannon's recent contact with Rev. Rich Lichti and his desire to meet with Session to further our discussion initiated with John Best.

Session Mtg schedule: The next Session meeting will be held Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 7:30 p.m., as April 9th is Maundy Thursday.

Communion was served during worship on Sunday, March 1, 2009. Next communion scheduled for April 5, 2009. Hester Fillmore and Andrea Stickney served communion to Barbara Beird, Al Townsend, and Wannie Allen on Sunday, March 1, 2009.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:15 p.m.

Denise Houle, Clerk of Session

-----Nothing Should Appear Below This Line-----