

May



2010 God press

Prayer is something most people of a religious nature would readily admit is important. They may think it is important but not necessarily practice it as an integral part of their life. Others may practice it regularly but not be really sure why - it's simply something they do. Prayer is also something we aren't sure exactly how it should be done. What posture should we use. What words should we speak. When I hear public prayers people often use fancy language, and some will repeat the name of God almost every sentence. Prayer at it's simplest is communicating or talking with God. Notice I said talking "with" God, not "at" God. When we talk with other individuals, hopefully there is give and take. Both parties to the conversation take part. Sometimes one person is speaking and sometimes the other person is speaking. Hopefully, when one person speaks - the other listens. Likewise, when we pray we need to have a time of silence when we are listening for the voice of God. It will most likely not be an audible voice, but God speaks in various ways in the silence to show us his leading. When we are speaking - the

language isn't important - what is important is that we are speaking with God, sharing our thoughts, our needs, our joys, our sorrows, etc.

When I was at the CREDO conference the following poem entitled "Praying" was shared.

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch

a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway

into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Paul

Preaching Schedule

May 2

Romans 6: 1 - 14; Ephesians 4: 1 - 6
I Corinthians 12: 12 - 31
Baptism: Joined to Christ's Church
and Ministry

May 9 - Mother's day

Acts 16: - 9 - 15;
Revelation 21: 10, 22 - 22:5; John 5: 1 - 9
"Disciples Together"

May 15 - Pastor Paul on Vacation

May 23 - Pentecost Sunday

John 14: 8 - 17
Acts 2: 1 - 21
"Gathered and Scattered"

May 30 - Graduation Sunday - Trinity Sunday

Psalms 8; Romans 5: 1 - 5; John 16: 12 - 15
"Majestic God"

Session News

The session met for its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was the triennial visit from representatives of the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. The triennial visit is a requirement of the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church USA. The purpose of these visits it for the Committee on Ministry to be in communication with the local church and to help evaluate the current health of the church. The evening began with the Committee representatives taking Pastor Paul and Nancy out to dinner where they visited with them about how things were going in their lives and in the life of the church. The Committee members then met with the session to review the survey the elders had filled out and to see if there were any concerns or any way the Presbytery could be of assistance to our congregation. There was a sense by both the elders and the committee members that it was a very enjoyable visit and a sense of good health for our congregation. The committee members will file a report and send a copy to us in the near future. After the triennial visit the session carried out its normal business of receiving Team reports. Under the Nurture & Growth Team report the session approved having Graduation Sunday on May 30. There will be a breakfast at McGuire's Resort for graduates and their families together with session members. During the Property & Finance Team the session approved proceeding with the next phase of Project Facelift (see separate article concerning what is involved in this phase).



Camp Greenwood SERVE Week

We are hoping to put together a group of teens from our church to attend this special camp week. It is our goal to have maximum participation from our kids, and to make this one of our major youth events for the summer. We will be offering scholarships for camp and holding fund-raisers to make going to camp possible for as many of you as possible.



SERVE Week is designed for either the whole youth group including leaders or just for you. Four days will be devoted to going into Kent and Montcalm Counties as servants for Christ. In the evening you will join together for praise and worship, a dynamic speaker and camp life. The 5th day the whole group will relax at Michigan Adventures, a rollercoaster/water theme park.

Kids will SERVE in the communities of Greenville, Rockford and Grand Rapids at various charitable organizations. This camp will take place on June 20—26 and the suggested age range is from 12—18 years. Cost for the week is \$225/person. Please contact Don Phillips for more information or see sign up on the bulletin board by Don's office.

Softball

The First Presbyterian Softball Team is getting ready to come to the plate once again for a fun season of softball. Practices are being held on April 25 and May 2. A scrimmage will be played against another team on either May 4 or 6 and the season begins on May 11. Games will be played on Tuesdays or Thursdays at 6:15 and 7:30. Make up games for rain outs will be at 9:00. We are playing our games this year at the Pines.



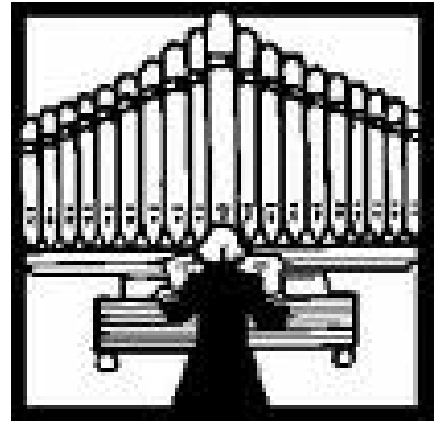
On Sunday, May 2 the softball team will be assisting with Pizza Sunday and the proceeds from the Pizza Sunday donations will go to help cover the \$250 registration fee for the league.

Fans – get ready to come out and cheer our team on and have a great time together.

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH...

The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad,
The Passover of gladness,
The Passover of God!
From death to life eternal,
From this world to the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over
With hymns of victory.

(vs. 3) Now let the heavens be joyful,
Let earth her song begin,
Let the round world keep triumph
And all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen,
Their notes in gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord hath risen,
Our Joy that hath no end.



As usual the glorious Easter music is still ringing in my head, and I just happened upon this old gem, discovering that it is truly one of the oldest in the hymnal. The original text was written by John of Damascus, a monk from the Greek Orthodox Church who lived in the 8th century. Yes, they believed in Jesus and celebrated Easter in a big way. An ancient custom of the Greek Church, which is done even in recent times, was to bury the cross under the high altar on Good Friday and resurrect it on Easter morning with great shouts of joy; over this chaos the priests were heard belting out an Easter hymn as loud as they could sing. In ancient times only priests or choirs sang in church.

According to historians, John was very influential in adapting old choral music to general church use, enabling all people to sing in worship. He perfected the "canon," a liturgical chant, and this particular poem was labeled the Golden Canon, said to be the grandest example of Greek sacred poetry. Whatever tune they used to sing with this was far from the tune we use. So how did this Greek poetry get into modern hymnals?

For centuries this poetry was buried in vaults or wherever monk stuff was kept. Much of the ancient Greek and Roman sacred works would have remained buried if it weren't for people like John Neale, an Anglican priest who came along in the 1800's and decided there was nothing he'd rather do than dig up ancient poems and translate them into English. Experts say he did an amazing job of preserving the original meaning of the poetry. It requires much talent to not only translate the work but to form it into poetry in another language. Neale also translated, and thus preserved, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and "All Glory, Laud and Honor" which I wrote about previously, and tons of other ancient works. "Resurrection" was published in 1862 as a hymn, apparently with another hymn tune. The tune many churches use today was composed in 1836 by Henry Smart for another hymn, and was not combined with this hymn in a book until 1898. Thus this hymn evolved from the 700's to 1898 to become the song we currently sing.

Stay tuned...to continuing spring and the return of the songbirds.

Dianne Case

Pentecost

On May 23, Christians around the world will celebrate the Day of Pentecost. It's often remembered as the church's birthday. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon those who believed in his resurrection.

Three thousand people were gathered in Jerusalem when the Spirit came upon them. They were so touched by the Holy Spirit that they began to worship regularly, especially on Sundays, the day of Christ's resurrection.

To symbolize the "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3, NRSV) that came upon the people present at Pentecost, liturgical churches display the color red in their worship services on Pentecost Sunday. Many people attending worship wear red on that day.

Wigglers in Worship

Is it worth it taking my child(ren) to worship? They wiggle and carry on so.

The fact that the question uses the words "worth it" is interesting. The word "worship" actually comes from an old English word "**worthship**." When we worship, sometimes we tend to focus only on what we (or our children) are "getting out of it" instead of what we're putting into it. By the very act of attending a worship service, we are telling God that He is worthy of us taking some time out of our week to focus on Him and thank Him for all He has done. Maybe with wiggly children we can't hear every word of the sermon or sing every hymn, but our presence there means something not only to God, but to our children. We're teaching our children that God is so important that we would not think of being anywhere else on Sunday morning than worshiping Him.



That leads to the second point: **consistency**. Sitting with a wiggly child in worship is difficult, but so is taking a wiggly child to the grocery store, making a wiggly child brush his/her teeth, dress warmly, take a bath, or get ready for school. Parenting is hard work! But we endure the difficulty because we know it's important that our child do those things. In the same way, if our attitude is that we will attend worship if we feel like it, or when we get our act together, or if the kids are behaving, we may never get there! Children learn with consistency and it takes a LONG time, so regular worship attendance will help them get used to the routine and, again, shows them that God is worthy of our time and effort.

So, now that we've decided to go to worship consistently, how can we make it easier? Here are some tips:

Be Prepared: If you have a weekday routine for getting ready for work/school on time, make it the same on Sunday morning. Have clothes ready the night before, breakfast planned, etc. That will help things get off to a smoother start. Having a special breakfast treat on Sunday will help them look forward to it.

Timing is Everything: If you get there too early, don't go sit down right away. Take your child(ren) to the restroom, walk around, or visit with others until just before the service starts. The less sitting time, the better!

Sit in the front: Don't sit in the back. I know they have those back rows reserved for parents of young children, but that is not the best place for them because they can't see what's going on. Move as close to the front as you can so they can see what is happening. Yes, they may distract some other worshippers, but if you get dirty looks, shame on them! Let the pastor know what you are doing so he can speak to grippers. Again, give it some time and consistency; don't expect perfection after just one or two weeks.

Have quiet items available: Have something for your child(ren) to look at, color, or play with.

Talk about what's happening: Practice using your "church voice" (whispering). Point out the colors, windows, what the pastor is doing to help them stay aware of what is going on.

Participate: If you're not singing, praying, etc., your child will never learn to do it. They will gradually pick up parts of the liturgy, prayers, and music, but you have to model it for them.

Your child may not pick up deep theological truths, and you yourself may even feel that you miss parts of the service. But like many other difficult things we do as parents, regularly attending worship with children will gradually become easier and set a foundation for the most important thing in their life—their faith.

Author unknown – (Article made available by Kimmer Wallis)

A Mother's Example

When I think of my mom, especially on Mother's Day, I recall a scene I witnessed many times during my childhood.

Late at night, just before bedtime, my mother would sit in a rocking chair in the darkness with her head bowed in prayer. When it was nippy, the glow from the space heater revealed a lovely scene that fascinated me.

My bed wasn't far away, and just before I fell asleep I often saw my mother praying. Her face was beautiful and aglow. She radiated holiness and serenity, and I was deeply affected.

I never once talked to my mom about her prayer life. I was only 17 when she died. As traumatic as it was for me, I wonder if it weren't a rather easy transition for her. After all, she seemed to live with one foot in heaven.

—Charles Ferrell



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women's Group met on April 21 and decided that our next meeting will be a potluck at Jane Sander-son's house on June 16. Thank you, Jane! Everyone is welcome. We decided that our mission for the year will be helping our troops. Additional details will be worked out at the June meeting, so bring with you more specific ideas and information about this topic.



NOON GROUP to MEET MAY 4, 2010

The next meeting of the group will be on Tuesday, May 4, 12:30 P.M., at Duane's Family Restaurant in Falmouth, Michigan. We will meet at the church at 11:45A.M. and will leave promptly at 12 noon for the restaurant. Please call George Lackey at 775-5682 by Saturday, May 1, for reservations.

Noon Group met at the Cadillac Grill on Tuesday, April 6, with 12 in attendance for a meal and fellowship.



Welcome aboard new staff organist!

I've been asked to introduce myself to you. First may I thank-you for your smiles and words of encouragement as I enter into your world to minister through music. I came to know Christ as my personal Saviour in 1955 after viewing a Billy Graham Film in our Bible Church and was thankfully raised in a Christian family. After graduating from Bible College (Majoring in Christian Ed and Minor in Sacred Music), I married Jerry VanProoyen, an ordained minister. We serve now in Children's Ministries and Assisted Living Homes in the area and he works at Cadillac Casting (28 yrs.). We have four sons. Our two eldest, Tim and Jim, are currently serving in the U.S. Air Force in VA and FL respectively. Our third son Nathan is serving as a Youth Minister at a church in PA. Our youngest son Chad resides in Cadillac. We also have six wonderful grand-children. We have been members of Temple Hill Baptist for 10 years since moving to Cadillac from Kalkaska. My life verse is Isaiah 26:3 "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you." Carla VanProoyen

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS

Nancy Williams College Scholarships and James Baird Performing Arts Scholarship Applications are available in the church office. If you would like one mailed to you, please call the office. Below is a list of criteria necessary for applicants:

- ◆ You or someone in your family must be a member or active participant in First Presbyterian Church
- ◆ You must have completed one year of post-high education and have a 2.5 g.p.a. or higher
- ◆ Students not enrolled full-time will receive a pro-rated scholarship. This is available up to 4 years of undergraduate study. The scholarship will be a maximum of \$500 a year for a full-time student
- ◆ Your past and present involvement in the church will be considered
- ◆ **Must complete and submit application by June 30, 2010** which is to include three letters of reference from non-relatives (letters of reference are not required for renewal applicants)
- ◆ As a recipient of this award you are asked to give consideration to making a donations to this fund when your career is established

May Birthdays

05/02 Karen Lempe
05/02 Cam Lempe
05/02 Luke DeWitt
05/03 Sheri Taylor
05/05 Penny Flynn
05/05 Camden Richardson
05/08 Jonathon Petterson
05/09 Darwin Carlson
05/11 Jack Dillon
05/11 Jerry Faloon
05/11 Ashley Budde
05/13 Joan Blystone
05/13 Susan Knoth
05/14 Homer Boughner
05/14 Theresa Clark
05/15 Gail Lanphear
05/17 Wayne Ferris
05/17 Alvera Dahley
05/18 Harold Kelly
05/21 Cathy Smart
05/21 Craig Taylor
05/22 Lauren Lempe
05/23 Evan Roycraft
05/24 Anne Lawton
05/26 Kelly Mosher
05/26 Lisa Coffell
05/27 Kayla Sprik
05/28 Linda Anderson
05/29 Rod Bellows
05/29 Bill Lanphear
05/30 Rita Finzel
05/30 Helenann Hoblet
05/31 Don Phillips (DCE)



May Anniversaries

05/18 Lee & Christine Goodrich
05/21 Jon and Jenny Catlin
05/21 Jan and Roy Barnes
05/24 Bob and Norma Faunce
05/26 Tom and Toni Boughner
05/30 Carl and Ann Wissner

Thank you

Dear Friends at FPC

Thank you so much for your faithful gift. We so appreciated your continued support. Thank you for partnering with us to serve the homeless in our area.

New Hope Shelter

Dear members;

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of holding our meetings at the church.

Wexford County Herb Society

Special thanks to everyone who brought in Hygiene Kits for our Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We were able to collect to take to our Presbytery Mtg. 32 kits that will help victims of natural disasters in our world.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, hugs and caring thoughts during my surgery. They are so appreciated and help a lot! I am doing great and am so thankful for my church family and their spiritual support.

With love, Paula Dunbar

Thank you letters received from local ministries we support;

- Mercy Home Care, Mercy Hospice
- Wexford Habitat for Humanity
- Love INC of Wexford/Osceola Counties
- The shepherd's Table
- The Salvation Army

Prayers and Sympathies

To Doug and Sue Mellema on the death of Doug's mother on April 11, 2010

To Bill Dahlquist on the death of his twin brother, Bob Dahlquist on April 10, 2010

To the family and friends of George Erickson who passed away on April 17, 2010

To the family of Rada Miller who passed away on April 9, 2010

Congratulations and blessings

To Paul and Nancy Tomlinson on the birth of Granddaughter, Aurora Rose Helsley on April 18, 2010 to Joe and Melissa Hensley.