



The Lifeline

First Presbyterian Church of Blissfield
304 Franklin St. Blissfield, MI 49228
www.blissfieldpresbyterian.com



Aug./Sept.
2008



It's hard to believe, but we are now entering the end of summer. Time seems to be moving rapidly, and even as I go through the adjustments of my personal loss, and the changes it has meant for my life, things don't seem to slow down. June and July brought some real joy. First was the experience at General Assembly, which was both invigorating and also a time of replenishment (as I left behind all my normal routines). I found the time inspirational, as I saw the church begin to look forward to being a more inclusive body, and accepting that some things can change, without giving up our faith or our values. Then the month brought a visit from my son, Joshua, who was out in Michigan for the first time in 13 years. What a joy and what a great experience. We have never really had the kind of one on one time that the week gave us, and it was a special gift.

But as I look forward, I am just as excited. The session has approved an advertising campaign by the church, in an effort to raise our visibility, and to distinguish us as a casual, caring community, welcoming everyone, that doesn't have all the answers, but seeks to find answers together, respecting our differences and trusting in the Spirit to help us see God's will in our individual and corporate life. Doug Case, Becky Breitner, and I will be working on the campaign, and we will be advertising in a variety of ways to let people who might be looking for a faith community like ours, to know that we exist and that they are welcome.

Additionally, plans are underway for the next mission trip, this time to Costa Rica, in 2009. Ten people have committed (nine of last years group, and Mary Case, who will be taking the place of Neil Sauter). Many aspects of the trip are still unsettled, but planning has begun and excitement is already rising.

One of the challenges I would like to see us take on, as this planning is ongoing, would be to come up with another local mission effort, that would be available to people who don't wish to travel out of the country, or have other limitations (health, finances, etc) but want to make a difference locally. Mission occurs in many ways, and in many places, so if anyone has a good idea, I would be thrilled to hear from them. In the mean time, we will continue to do many of the mission activities we have been doing for some time. We delivered Meals on Wheels the week of July 28 through August 1. We will continue to care for those within our community, providing prayer shawls and prayer lap-ropes for individuals who are ill, grieving, or otherwise in need of being cared for. We have a great church, a caring church, and a great opportunity to share it with others. Help us figure out what we need to do and get involved.

Bob

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Special Dates

- 9/1 - Labor Day
- 9/2 - School Starts
- 9/7 - National Grandparents Day
- 9/11 - Patriot Day
- 9/22 - 1st Day of Autumn

August 2008	September 2008
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30
31	

Do you have dinner plans for the third Monday of the month? You do now. Palmyra Presbyterian serves a delicious homemade dinner from 5:00 - 6:30 every third Monday. The cost of dinner is very reasonable. Support our friends in Palmyra. Mark your calendars now.



PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP

Our group is still active and having great fellowship. It is surprising how many shawls and lap robes (for men) we have made in the last year. Our group is pretty loosely organized in that if you can't be present each



time, it is perfectly o.k. We have seven pretty regular knitters from the Blissfield and Palmyra Presbyterian Churches and a couple from other churches that join us.

We meet every Tuesday evening at 7:00 for a couple of hours. We meet either in the church or in our homes. We always have an extra seat so if anyone would like to join us, we would be happy to have them. If you need help knitting, it's o.k. We have plenty of help. Patterns to crochet are also available.

If you know of someone who might benefit from our prayers and would enjoy a prayer shawl, or if you have any questions, please call Mary Case at 486-4224.



Carolyn Bettis is happy to announce that the new Church Directory is available for pick up in the Narthex. If you would like one, please call Carolyn at 517-263-6228. You will find pictures, phone numbers, addresses, etc. Special thanks to Doug Case for putting this project together.

Our church will be sponsoring the annual Yuletide Craft Show and Bake Sale, held at Blissfield Elementary School. Help will be needed Friday for set-up and all day Saturday for a variety of things.



The blue envelop in the front of your offering envelop box is for your per capita fee for 2008. It is our church's obligation to pay a per capita fee to the Presbyterian Church USA for each member. This money comes from the general fund. We are asking each member to consider paying their Per Capita fee of \$27 to help with this expense from our general fund. This cost equals out to just over 50 cents per week. Thank you.



Prayer Chain Fan Out

If you have a person, situation, or a need for prayer, please call one of the following people and the Prayer Chain will be started.

- *Pastor Bob Bidwell - 517-605-2341
- *Carolyn Saxton - 486-3429
- *Peggy Nieman - 486-4116 (h)
486-4347 (w)
- *Mary Case - 486-4224
- *Wetonia Jackson - 486-4360 (h)
517-612-0322 (c)



The combined worship-in-the park worship service, held July 20, had to be moved to a higher, drier, less mosquito infested place, our church. If you recall, the river had recently receded, leaving mud, a stench and mosquitoes the size of elephants with a hunger for human blood. So our doors were opened and a pleasant worship service was enjoyed by all, followed by a potluck luncheon. The combined efforts of the two Presbyterian churches left no one hungry or disappointed in the amount or variety of food served.

"Pretty Tall" Adventure!

Denny and Linda Thompson, along with the rest of Blissfield, are pretty proud of their unconventional nephew, Neil Sauter. Neil, a Blissfield boy with a mild case of cerebral palsy, has walked the state of Michigan to raise awareness about CP and raise money for United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan.

What makes Neil unconventional is that he walked 830 miles on three foot high stilts! Neil left Bedford, Michigan, traveled through Michigan and completed his journey when he reached the Wisconsin border. Rain or shine, with backpack in tow, Neil walked about 20 miles, more or less, each day, staying with host families, some prearranged and some spontaneous, along the way.

Neil was overwhelmed with people's support and generosity. So supportive, that Neil far exceeded his fundraising goals. Neil is now a much taller man! Visit www.stiltstory.org for more information.

Neil traveled to Guatemala last summer with our mission group.



**THANKS to Our
VBS Volunteers!**

Bible School is a BIG Success

"God's Big Backyard" was the theme for our Bible School this year, and it was a wonderful way to reach out to the community. The number of children who participated in the event was 43. It was exciting to help these youngsters grow in their faith. The three days were packed with upbeat music, puppet shows, reenacted Bible stories with beautiful mural backdrops, fun crafts, delicious snacks and lunches, games and meaningful Bible studies. The main theme centered around serving ... serving family, friends, neighbors, community, and Jesus. We discovered that by reaching out to others and sharing God's love with others, we are doing the will of God as Jesus did.

The number of people from our church who contributed to help make this a success was outstanding. People supported our Bible School with food donations and preparations, artistic mural paintings, music leadership, creative crafts, teaching, and coordinating all of the activities. Another way people supported our cause was through financial contributions, which helped defray a large portion of the cost. The children also brought in coins which overflowed our money jar. This money, in the amount of \$224.82, is serving our community as a contribution to our local food pantry.

We would like to "thank" all of you who so generously gave of yourself in some way to help make this Bible School special.

Denny Thompson, Jana Martin, and Sue Porter

ASSEMBLY IN BRIEF 2008 is a booklet put out by PCUSA, highlighting the events, issues, people and votes of the 2008 General Assembly held June 21 -28 in San Jose, California.. These booklets are an interesting read and are available in the narthex, or if you would like one sent to you, please call the church office at 486-3864 and leave a message. Taken from **ASSEMBLY IN BRIEF 2008**, "Most partisans left this Assembly feeling as if they had won some and lost some. But to most observers, the 218th General Assembly lived up to its theme from Micah 6:8 - 'What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.'"

'Twas the Day After Bible School

'Twas the day after Bible school and all over town,
With a sigh of relief, we all settled down.
Out to the golf course goes Dad in his cap,
And home in the bedroom Mom's taking a nap.
Gone Linda, gone Brenda, gone David and Johnny,
Gone Margie, and Mary, and Ronnie and Donnie.
Gone stories, and puppets, and songs in the air,
Gone paint under fingernails and paste in the hair.
Rest sweetly, dear workers, and wake with good cheer,
For Bible school won't come again for a year.
As they drifted off, I heard them exclaim:
"It was worth all the hard work and we'd do it again!"

QUARTERLY REPORT



Quarterly Financial Reports are included in this Lifeline. If you have questions, please call Mary Case at 486-4224



Advantages of Joining the Choir

1. You never have to worry about what to wear.
2. You have excellent seats and are assured a reserved seat for Christmas and Easter.
3. From your advantageous seat, you can smile at, gawk at, ignore and otherwise enjoy the rest of the people in the congregation.
4. The pastor is nearly always looking the other way.
5. You're in a wonderful spot to see new members.
6. The cost for all these benefits? Just one evening a week.
7. Oh, yes, one more reason to join the choir: You're a leader in the worship experience.



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad You Did!

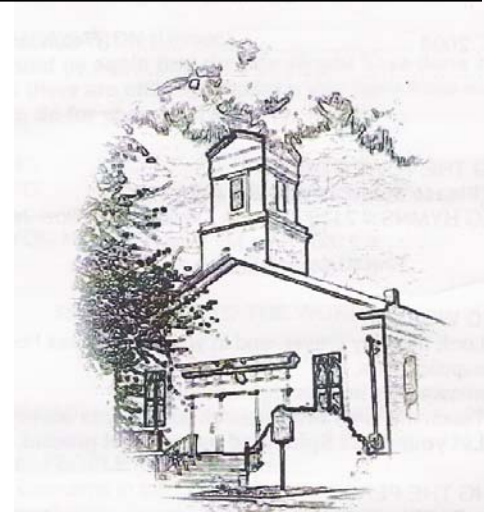
Choir Practice is each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. Diana is always looking for new voices. ALL are welcome!

My Church

My church is composed of people like me. We make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I bring them.

My church will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with those things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be!



Joys and Concerns

Pray for . . . Doug Hickman and family; Wetonja Jackson; healing for Dick Werth; Trish Werth's father; Sue Porter; Putt and Alice Petee; Cle Bassett; Ben Hoagland and his family as Ben undergoes surgery in the near future; Debbie Royal's father, Art; Cameron Moorehead; Ryan and Gretchen Rought; Pastor Bob; Cliff and Barb Jackson; Sally Hagenbuch; Pastor Bob's sister and brother-in-law, Sue and Tracy; our church; our Session; the state of Michigan; the USA; military personnel serving all over the world; our president and elected officials; world leaders; peace, tolerance, understanding and compassion for our world.

Sympathy for . . .

- The family of Orin Daniels. Orin was active in our church, singing in the choir and filling our pulpit many times.
- Molly Witt and Jeff Pardee and Hannah.
- Doris Love and family as they mourn the loss of Ralph Love.

Remember . . .

Those who can't worship with us on a regular basis: Putt Petee; June and Andy Somes; Sally Hagenbuch; Esther Billington, Ann Reed, Mary Saxton, and Marian Snyder.

Joys . . .

- Pastor Bob had the opportunity to attend General Assembly in

San Jose, California from June 21 - 28.

- Josh Bidwell flew in from Washington to visit his dad, Pastor Bob.
- Very Special Celebrations in June - Marian Snyder celebrated her 103rd birthday, Jan and Dave Wood celebrated their 45th anniversary and Barbara Jackson celebrated her 82nd birthday.
- Elizabeth Jackson and Eric Sisson were awarded the LCAA Scholar Athlete award. Congratulations!
- Diana Maloney and her daughter and grandson have recently taken up residence in the manse. What nice neighbors! Welcome.
- Bill and Tracy Strouse and family have a new Home Sweet Home. Their new home is on Jipson Street.
- The home of Mary Bettis has been sold to the Randy Weeber family, a joy with sadness.
- Morgan DeNudt, daughter of Mike and Doris DeNudt, was a contestant in the Miss River Raisin Festival pageant.
- Kevin Chont, son of Carol and Steve Seeburger, recently passed a test and is now a certified chartered financial analyst.
- Connie Graf was a big winner at the River Raisin Festival. She won the Rotary Car Raffle, a 2008 Pontiac G6. She's still

pinching herself.

- Dick and Carolyn Saxton are grandparents again. Kristen and Joe Rowe of Portland, Oregon blessed them with a granddaughter, Caroline Elizabeth.
- Ken Graf has a new job. He is Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources with Bedford Public Schools.
- Thanks to everyone who helped deliver Meals on Wheels.
- Maumee Valley Presbytery has given a \$1000 grant to our mission group for next year's trip to Costa Rica.
- Erynn Eff and Joey Stamper were married in our church on Friday, August 8. May God bless their marriage.



Connie Graf is looking for information about our college students. She needs name, college, year, area of study, etc. Please send her a note or email her at elelibrarylady@hotmail.com.





August

- 3 Jay ~ Kerry Nieman
- 5 Ellen Hicks
- 8 Brad Heineman
- 11 Derek Seeburger
Marjorie Wotring
- 15 David Porter
- 18 Ken ~ Connie Graf
- 22 Putt Petee
- 28 Grant ~ Jana Martin
- 30 Chris Betz

September

- 10 Carolyn Bettis
- 12 Casey Graf
- 17 Linda Thompson
- 19 Cliff Jackson
- 21 Rosemary Luce
Putt ~ Alice Petee
- 22 Noah Nieman
- 26 Dale Wotring
- 27 Brian ~ Sue Porter



September 7, 2008

- *Sue & Brian Porter
- Stephanie Hoagland
- Jana & Grant Martin

October 19, 2008

- *Wetonia & Greg Jackson
- Rosemary Luce
- Shirley Benz

October 19, 2008

- *Matt & Kori Nieman
- Peggy Nieman
- Carol Seeburger

*Chairperson

If scheduling conflicts occur on your designated Sunday, please feel free to trade or contact Jana Martin at 486-5914 or Linda Thompson at 486-3113.



Mission Fundraiser

Just a reminder to keep collecting used ink cartridges, cell phones, laptop computers, iPods, and digital cameras. There is a container in the narthex in which to place these used items. Our church earns money from these items. Let your family, friends, and co-workers know about our project.

Proceeds will go to the Costa Rica mission trip in June.

Call Cathie Case (486-4178) if you have items you would like to donate but need to have them picked up.



Thank you Jana Martin, Sue Porter and Denny Thompson for your time and talents in organizing, implementing and teaching VBS. Thanks also to EVERYONE who had a part in this year's Bible School success.

We have a new sound system, thanks to Pastor Bob. It was given in memory of Linda Bidwell. It is a nice addition to the worship service and will be used by Pastor Bob, our music director Diana Maloney, musicians and the Praise Team. Thanks Bob.

