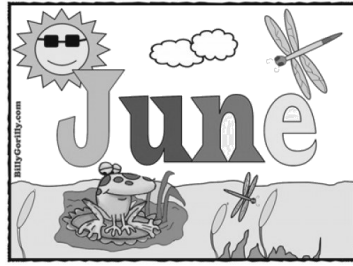




FIRSTNEWS MONTHLY



**First Presbyterian Church
Racine, Wisconsin 53403**

2013

Music, mission, ministry... Where tradition meets today's world!

Play!

I told this story in a sermon recently, but it bears repetition and celebration. There once was a little girl who was at school in her classroom and it was time for art. She was six years old and was sitting at the back of the class, drawing. The teacher said that most days this little girl hardly paid attention, but during this particular art lesson, she did. She hung on every word, and then with laser focus she began her work in the back row, drawing and coloring intently. The teacher was fascinated and she went over to her and said, "What are you drawing?" and the girl said, "I'm drawing a picture of God." And the teacher said, "But nobody knows what God looks like." And the girl said, "They will in a minute."

As spring welcomes summer and hopefully we all welcome a slower, more relaxed pace in life, the inner child in each of us has a chance to play again, to be outside later each day and do those fun summer things: catch fireflies, run through sprinklers, eat ice cream... maybe even draw a few pictures of God with finger paints or sidewalk chalk.

Jesus once commanded his disciples to let the little children come to him. "For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these," he said. Could it be said that as we grow up and as we acquire more and more responsibilities and possessions, we lose something of the kingdom of heaven? Perhaps. Surely our children and grandchildren who play for a living offer the gift of their perspective.

Let June be a playful month. Kick a pinecone while you're walking down the sidewalk. Sing a song you haven't sung since you were a kid at church camp. Be quick to giggle and play as you move through the days ahead. Take Jesus' command to "turn and become like children" seriously, and then stop being so serious all the time. Receive God's playful, abundant blessings this summer!

In Christ,

Pastor Ken

Handbell Choir



The Handbell Choir will be taking the summer off ! We look forward to seeing our ringers and playing during service come September!

SONFIRE & YOUTH NEWS

June 16th-22nd, the Sonfire Youth Group will travel to Lorain County, Ohio for the annual youth mission trip! They will serve the senior citizens of Lorain County, working on general home repairs, including dry walling, flooring, painting, ramps, decks and other household repairs. We are requesting your prayers as we embark on this endeavor! Here is a list of those who will be serving on this mission trip

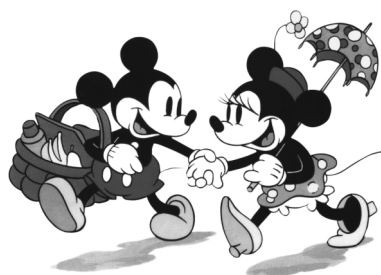
- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| • Cierra Baker | • Ben Neal |
| • David Bangs | • Andrea Nitz |
| • Nikki Blanks | • Jeremy Nitz |
| • Sina Cape | • Ian Olsen |
| • Robbie Granger | • Kurt Ringwalt |
| • Zack Higgs | • Teddy Vollman |

First Presbyterian Church is looking for super stars to teach Sunday School during the 2013-2014 school year! We currently need teachers for the Third and Fourth Grade Class and for the Fifth and Sixth Grade Class! Please contact Nikki Blanks at 632-1686 if you're interested in helping or even if you just want a little more information!

WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

- Love for the children of First Presbyterian Church
- Commitment to helping our young people learn to follow God.
- About one hour of planning for each week that you teach (7-8 times/ year).
- One hour of classroom time for each week that you teach or co-teach (15 times/ year).
- AVERAGES OUT TO ONLY ABOUT 3 HOURS A MONTH, IF YOU HAVE 3 CO-TEACHERS!!!
- No experience necessary! You'll have a co-teacher, and lots of support from the church!
- No theological training necessary! You'll have a curriculum!

church picnic



Come join us on Sunday, June 9th, for our annual outdoor worship and church picnic! We will meet at the Rotary West Safari Base Camp and Pavilion at the Racine Zoo, 2131 Main Street for a 10 a.m. service. We will have access to handicapped parking for those with a permit. Members who need to take advantage of these closer spaces can enter by taking Augusta Street east from Main. Then turn right into the gated area and park on the immediate right. (Please bring your own wheelchair as we only have a few available.) We are happy to escort you and your belongings as necessary.

Don't require special parking? You will still enter at Augusta Street. Hot sandwiches, beverages and tableware will be provided, along with games for the kids and the fellowship of your church family! Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share for the potluck meal, and lawn chairs for yourself and family. *Remember, there will be no service at church that day, and we'll party rain or shine. Join us as we celebrate God's blessings !*

2013 Edition; Volume 6

ORGANIZED IN 1839

MUSIC, MISSION, MINISTRY...
WHERE TRADITION
MEETS TODAY'S WORLD



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RACINE, WI 53403-1283
262.632.1686

Pastor
Ben Johnston-Krase

Visitation Pastor
Steven C. Fringer

Director of Children and Youth Ministries
Nikki Blanks

Organist
Gerald E. Buck

Choir Director
Alejandro Alumbrosos

Music Leader
Mark Paffrath

Handbell Choir Director
Nancy Buck

Office Assistant
Julie Nondorf

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Sexton
Leneen Schrieffer

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FirstPresRacine@wi.rr.com

Web site:
www.FirstPresRacine.org

Pastor's blog:
SayingGraces.com

PLEASE RECYCLE



I Once Was Lost...



These are just a few of the items hoping for a reunion with their owners. If you've lost a super-nice Packer jacket, a beautiful gemstone bracelet, or a handy-dandy notebook (among other things), stop by the office during regular week-day hours or give Julie a call at 632-1686.

SESSION NEWS

Thank you to our outgoing Session members who complete their work at the end of May. Bill Blandford, Kay Mahl, Dennis Reeser, Ben Neal, and Jennings Leavell have lent their intelligence and physical labor to the church and we are grateful.

Welcome to the new Session members recently elected: Debby Capener (no I wasn't a member, just Clerk before), Bruce Armstrong, Sharon Campbell, and Luann Hansen.

Finally, thank YOU, our members! You recently filled out a short survey about how you best describe our church and church family. Taking that information and much more, the Session will be involved in a half-day retreat to focus on how to proceed with outreach to the community and the marketing of our church. Stay tuned for more information as we go forward.

Debby Capener
Clerk of Session

FINANCIAL AND STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

School is almost out and summer is finally on the horizon! April represented an adequate month financially for us. Our income was \$47,612, which approached the income of \$53,395 from last April. Year-to-date income is now \$130,935 this year compared to \$117,717 last year (difference is +\$13,218 or +11.2%). We are tracking right on our budgeted income based on last year's pace. Costs in April were as expected with, once again, a little extra spending primarily for snow removal. Costs were \$33,687 resulting in a net gain of \$13,923 for the month. Last April we had costs of \$27,792 with a ridiculous net gain of \$25,603! Year-to-date costs are now \$126,689 for a net gain of \$4,245. At this point last year we had costs of \$107,292 with a net gain of \$10,424. Costs are up this year primarily due to planned payroll increases and maintenance costs including snow removal.

April's Angel of the Month is Dennis Reeser thanks to a landslide of nominations! In addition to being just a great guy, Dennis is a gentleman who is always willing to help with just about anything necessary. He is a hard worker, never complains, and almost always has a smile on his face as well! Thank you, Dennis, for your commitment and help at our church!

Thank you for your nominations. If you have a nominee(s) for Angel of the Month, please e-mail the information to angelofthemonth@ymail.com, or complete a nomination form that can be found in Ihrman Hall, or let our Office Assistant, Julie Nondorf, or me know.

Ed Holle
Treasurer



Angel Dennis Reeser

facebook 

View our newly updated page and like us at
<http://www.facebook.com/FirstPresRacine>

SENIOR GEMS

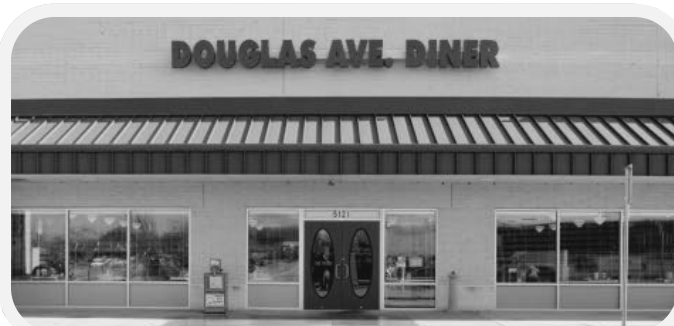
The Senior Gems at First Presbyterian are an active group of seniors who gather monthly for fellowship and service. On any given month, you might find them enjoying a lunch out, doing yoga, making cards for shut-ins and other friends of the church, watching a movie, enjoying a concert, or helping out around the church. Our Senior Gems are a big part of what makes First Presbyterian Church such a wonderful place to experience God's loving presence!



We all had such a wonderful time at the Mitchell Park Conservatory—also known as The Domes. We car-pooled, then enjoyed a relaxing lunch at Country Rose on the way home. Pictured above from left: Nancy Reeser, Leah Fisher, Vi Shufelt, Lois Frederiksen, and Mary Johnson.

T H I S M O N T H

Come join us when next we meet on Tuesday, June 11th. We'll gather for breakfast at the Douglas Avenue Diner at 10 a.m. We always have a great time together and would love it if you'd come along to make it even merrier! For more information about the Sr. Gems, give our organizer, Leah Fisher, a call at 886-5772.



L A S T M O N T H

DEACON NEWS UPDATE



The Deacons have been active at Christmas time with the Angel Tree and the collection and distribution of the Food Baskets, and they have now taken up a new mission: serving Communion to people who find they are unable to get to church, but would still like to take participate in this aspect of worship.

Bringing Communion to the homebound has come to signify as much to the servers as to the receivers. The intimate setting of a home, bedside, or care facility has given expanded meaning to the sacrament for all those involved. There's a very intimate nature to the service that's very moving and restorative.

If you or anyone you know of might have a desire to be served communion, please contact Julie in the office by phone at 632-1686 or email at firstpresracine@wi.rr.com.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, JUNE COUPLES!

<i>Lawrence & Mary Eastman</i>	<i>June 8</i>	<i>53 Years</i>
<i>Keith & Susanne Doe</i>	<i>June 11</i>	<i>47 Years</i>
<i>John & Linnea Brooke</i>	<i>June 12</i>	<i>48 Years</i>
<i>Dennis & Nancy Reeser</i>	<i>June 15</i>	<i>39 Years</i>
<i>Dan & Susan Barry</i>	<i>June 16</i>	<i>23 Years</i>
<i>Frederick & Sheila Lawrence</i>	<i>June 20</i>	<i>49 Years</i>
<i>James & Bonnie Eastman</i>	<i>June 22</i>	<i>50 Years</i>
<i>Robert & Mary Johnson</i>	<i>June 24</i>	<i>63 Years</i>
<i>William & Marjorie Rendall</i>	<i>June 28</i>	<i>66 Years</i>
<i>William & Blanche Gunderson</i>	<i>June 29</i>	<i>45 Years</i>



June Birthdays

June 1	Tatiana Barry	June 12	David Holle	June 22	Ann Pettibone
	Kelsey Yale		Sara Rangel	June 23	William Shaefer
June 3	Sara Sorensen		Katherine Wortley	June 24	Emma DeGroot
June 4	Brenda Webb	June 13	William Knudson	June 26	Judd Zimmermann
June 5	Courtney DeKeuster		Erik Stirle	June 28	Robert McMahon
	Brooke Eisner	June 14	Nancy Bloch	June 29	Nancy Borzynski
	Teddy Vollman		Shirley Hunsburg	June 30	Mary Stewart
	Mandy Lyn Zember		Patricia Rogers		Christopher Webb
June 6	Mary Blandford	June 15	Landon Harris		
June 7	Marge Henze	June 17	Mallory Stirle		
	Andrew Park	June 18	Dorothy Elzinga		
June 8	Rosemarie Olsen	June 19	Judy Rowland		
	Don Tobias	June 20	Lydia Lawrence		
June 9	Jordan Rowland		David Nitz		
June 10	Thomas Holle		Pam Wahlen		
	James Rooney	June 21	Meg Daniels		
	John Rowland		Hunter DeLao		

God gave to us the gift of life; it is up to us to give ourselves the gift of living well—
Voltaire

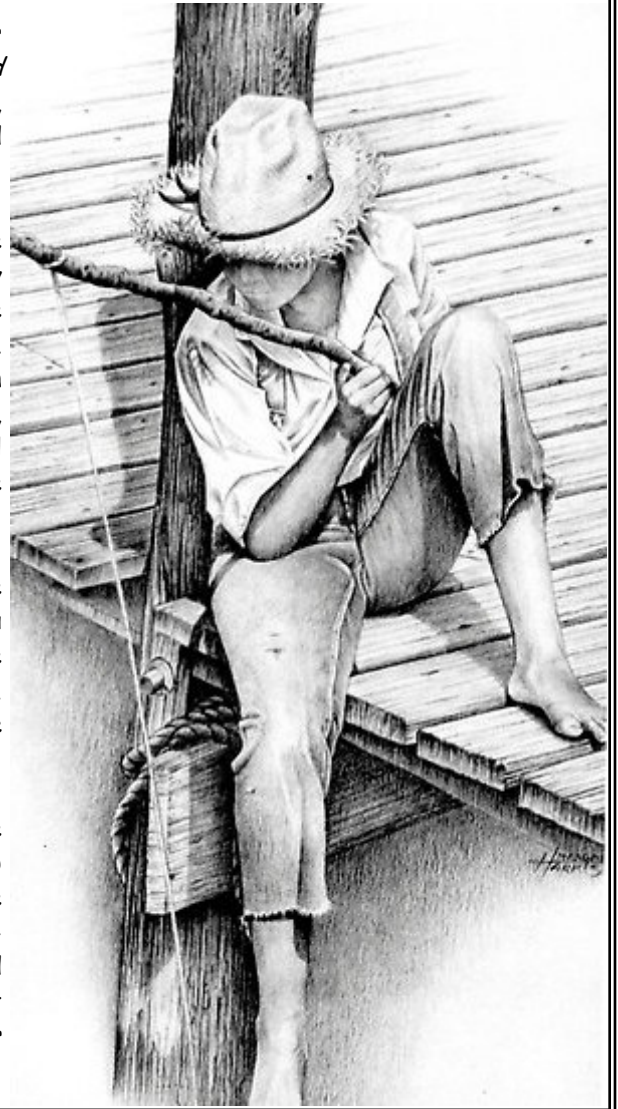
CHapel Art News

When you think about God, what sorts of forms, sizes, shapes, or colors do you imagine? In our upcoming Chapel Art Exhibit, *God's World is Green*, you can express those thoughts in paint, paper, canvas, found, recycled or re-purposed artwork. Is God's world really "green?" And what does that look like?

Please pick up your artwork from the current show as soon as possible and bring us some new art to hang or display. The 20th Anniversary Music & More concert series starts on Thursday, June 6th, and we would like to get our show substantially hung and labeled by then. Because of our First Presbyterian Church Picnic at the Racine Zoo on Sunday, June 9th, we will complete hanging this show the week after, so you have a little more time to get your artwork in. This exhibit will remain in the Chapel until the week of July 21st. Following that, the Mid-Summer show will feature "Hot Stuff."

As always, we need to have the artwork clearly labeled with your name and contact information, and if framed, able to be hung on a hook. You may elect to offer your work for sale or not. If for sale, please indicate sale price. 10% of the sale price goes to First Presbyterian. We invite artists of all ages and experience to participate in these exhibits.

Dropping off your artwork couldn't be easier. Please simply come to the church either before or immediately after Sunday Worship service, or Tuesday through Friday, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Go to the College Avenue door, ring the buzzer, and Julie will let you in. We recommend you call Julie before you come (262) 632-1686. If you need more information about the First Presbyterian Church Chapel Art Exhibits, please contact Ellen Cardwell, (262) 456-6336 or ERCardwell@aol.com



Deborah Circle will meet on Monday, June 3, 5:30 p.m. at Ginny Holle's home at 210 Mourning Dove Lane, for a cook-out and a relaxing time of conversation.



Brats, burgers, and beverages will be provided. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share. After the meal, we will be sharing about our favorite summer hobbies or vacation spots. Please call Ginny at 884-0230 by Friday, May 31, if you plan to attend.

RENT-A-YOUTH

So much to do...So little time? Too heavy, too big, too overwhelming, too high? Help is available! We do yard work, painting, organizing, cleaning, computers and more for a donation to the Summer Youth Mission Trips! Contact Ben Neal for information and appointments. Email Ben at beneal@hotmail.com or phone him at 497-6545.



SEE YOU AT THE BLOOD DRIVE



First Presbyterian Church will be holding the first of two blood drives this coming Tuesday, June 4th, in Ihrman Hall. If you are able to donate and would like to set up an appointment, please call Julie in the church office or sign up on the sheet posted in Ihrman Hall. As always, walk-ins are welcome! we need a few volunteers to help with set up and to act as hosts/ hostesses for the duration of the event, which runs from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Please see the sign-up sheet for volunteers, which is also in Ihrman Hall, for more information or to sign up for a few short hours.



Parish Nurse Notes



THE ART OF GIVING BLOOD

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. A single pint (there are 10—12 pints in our bodies) can save three lives. Nearly 39,000 pints are needed every day.

Yet fewer than 10% of healthy Americans regularly donate blood, even though doing so is safe (you won't get AIDS or any other disease), easy, painless, and takes only 10 minutes (though you may have to stick around for an hour or so). If only 1% more people gave a pint of their blood two or three times a year, there would always be enough to go around—except perhaps in the event of a major disaster.

There are some restrictions, of course. Blood banks want to make sure that the blood you may be given one day is perfectly safe, so every donation is tested exhaustively for any antibody, chemical or virus that could be harmful. Requirements vary in different states, but the following criteria usually apply:

- You are at least 17 years old
- You weigh 110 pounds
- Your blood pressure is below 180/100
- At least 12 months have passed since you received a transfusion
- You are not taking any prescribed blood thinners or certain other medications. Aspirins are OK, but stop taking it 48 hours before you donate
- You aren't pregnant and haven't given birth in the last six weeks

- You have not taken antibiotics to fight infection within the last seven days. (Preventative antibiotics, such as those used for acne are OK)
- You do not have certain medical conditions. These include being HIV-positive (or at an increased risk of contracting HIV). You can't give blood if you have angina or have had a heart attack, bypass surgery or angioplasty within the last six months, or have any type of hepatitis or blood-borne cancer. You must also be cancer-free for at least five years.

Many Americans are donating blood to themselves, often before surgery. Blood can be frozen and stored for use at a later time. It's worth discussing with your doctor.

Most donated blood is separated into components: red blood cells, plasma, and platelets—before being distributed for use.

Shortages occur because the demand for blood is unpredictable and blood supply is highly perishable. When there is less than a three-day supply at hand, blood centers typically alert the community.

You never know when you or a loved one will need blood. Wouldn't it be comforting to know that there will be enough in an emergency?

—Dr. Isadore Rosenfeld



Music & More

20th
ANNIVERSARY



The 20th Anniversary Season of Music & More kicks off on Thursday, June 6 at Noon and runs through August 8.

The concerts are just an hour long, fast moving and fun! We have booked a variety of singers, instrumentalists and musical groups from southeastern Wisconsin and the Chicago area. Many audience favorites will be returning and 7 new acts will be performing.

There is no admission charge, but donations are encouraged and will be divided at the end of the summer between three local agencies.

"All-in" – we'd like all church members to consider making a donation to show support for our 20th Anniversary Season! Your donation is tax-deductible and can be made to First Presbyterian Church, for Music & More. Donations may be given *in honor* or *in memory* of someone or to mark a special occasion.

Additional parking is available in the Living Light Community Center lot adjacent to the church (former YWCA).

JUNE SCHEDULE

June 6

First Presbyterian Church Choir
Muzika Piano Trio & Frank Suetholz
Alissa Castaneda, Luke Patterson & Tom Earnest

June 20

Anne Morse-Hambrock
Darlene Rivest, Ann Heide & Terri Seitz
Curt Hanrahan & Jim Sodke

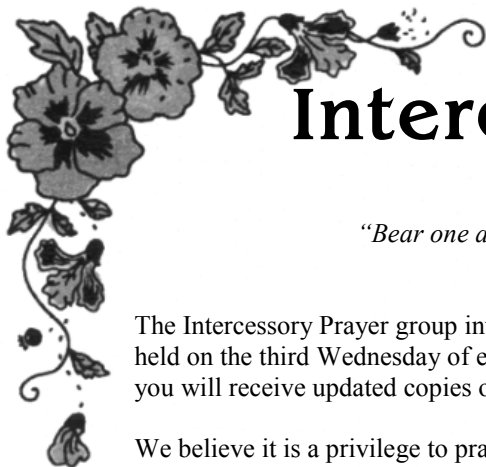
June 13

The Corelli Ensemble
Luke Patterson
Jeanne Scherkenbach & Jamie Johns

June 27

Mark Paffrath
Ben Johnston-Krase
Zachary Scot Johnson

*SAVE THE DATE for our Season Finale Concert: Friday, August 16 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets \$10.
Performers: Suzanne Geoffrey (oboe & English horn); Randy Bush (piano)*



Intercessory Prayer Ministry

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2

The Intercessory Prayer group invites you to join this important ministry. For those who can attend, meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. in Ihrman Hall. If you are not able to attend the meetings, you will receive updated copies of the prayer list and you can pray during your own quiet time.

We believe it is a privilege to pray for, with, and on behalf of others. Each prayer request is held in confidence. We pray for those in our own congregation and in the larger church family. In addition to individual requests, we pray for our leaders, for local and worldwide needs, and for peace in all circumstances.

Please contact Bonnie Eastman (886-3262) or Georgia Hall (633-7251).

