

THE FIRST PRES

August 2007

[Http://www.thewfpc.org](http://www.thewfpc.org)

First Presbyterian Church
Winnebago, Illinois

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Pastor's Note

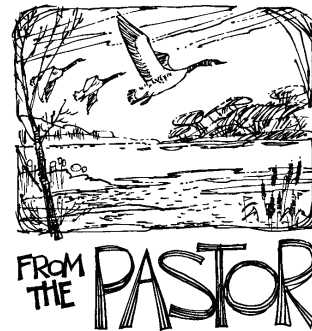
Words can be confusing at times. Some people use certain words interchangeably that we believe one word has the same meaning as another word. For example, the words vision, mission and purpose. Many Christians use these words in describing their church ministry. You may agree with what they say, or you may not. But, the point is just this: Vision, purpose, and mission do not mean the same thing. So, what's the difference?

In January of 1999, the session of our church accepted the following statement as the "VISION" of our church. "As part of the family of God, we gratefully accept Christ's charge to us to be agents of reconciliation, seeking to make disciples of those God places in our path. Honoring the vision of our forefathers, we seek to provide the highest quality of Christian education and outreach, we actively seek to provide meaningful and challenging worship services; practical Bible teaching; vibrant youth ministry to our members and the community; and outreach to those with special needs; We also seek to support and nurture strong Christian homes and to be a loving church family."

One may ask, "what is the mission of our church?" Practically speaking, the "mission" of the church is this: to lovingly share the "good news" of Jesus Christ to people we interact with". How then does "mission" differ from our "purpose"? The purpose of every Christian is simply "to live everyday in faithful and loving obedience to God." We find our purpose in trusting God. This means turning every area of our life over to him. So, if you personally or you and

your family are seeking to find your "purpose", you will find it by becoming like Christ. Indeed, our calling from God, as Christians, is to become like Christ (Romans 8:29).

Every Christian, and every Christian church by whatever its name and affiliation has a "vision" that is given it by the Spirit of God. Every individual Christian and church has a "mission" to share the "gospel" the "good news" of Jesus Christ with their neighbor, with those whom God places in our life. And, each one of us has "purpose", to live every day in faithful and loving obedience to God. May God bless us in these tasks which seek to honor and glorify Him.



Session Synopsis

Amazing, how time does pass so quickly. As we prepare to enter into the month of August, many of us are looking back and wondering what happened to June and July. Actually nothing happened to them, but we on the other hand were busy, and because of this the days passed so quickly we hardly noticed. The July “Session meeting” was a good time for those in attendance to take stock of the summer months, look back on what we have been doing, concentrate on the present, and plan for the future.

Looking back, we the session, reviewed the minutes of our last meeting in May 2007. We took time to go over the “Treasurer’s Report”, and to update ourselves on the financial status of the church. We also listened as Pastor Steve updated us on some of the specific things he has been doing.

Pressing ahead, we discussed several ways in which we can better promote our church activities and program. Each of us has a vital part to play in sharing what we are doing, and will be doing in the near future.

Visioning, planning, implementation, and review are all a part of the coming months. As “Rally Day” approaches the Christian Education department is looking at Sunday School curriculum samples, class needs, as well as who will teach each class. Additional teacher aids are being sought. The start time for Sunday school classes will be 9:00 AM.

This September will usher in a renewed focus on providing excellence in Christian education for people of all ages. We encourage everyone to use your time before and after worship to greet and fellowship with new, as well as long time friends.

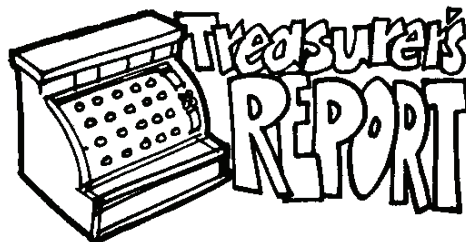
As we move forward in to the fall months and church program, we will be pressing to better promote “who we are, what our vision is, what we are doing, what God is doing in and through us, and what is God’s will for our church family”.

All of us look forward to seeing, worshipping, and visiting with you in the months ahead. May the Lord keep you safe, secure, and always near His heart.

In Christ’s service,
The Session and staff

May Church Budget

Beginning Checking:	\$17,796.03
May Expenses:	\$11,075.96
Yearly Expenses:	\$62,783.66
May Revenue:	\$14,956.39
Yearly Revenue:	\$70,090.34
End Checking:	\$21,676.49



Senior High Youth

The Senior High Youth Group has had a fun summer. A highlight for the summer was a campout at Seward Forest Preserve. We had 21 kids pitching tents, playing Ultimate Frisbee, Bocce Ball, and going on a scavenger hunt with digital cameras! Our time ended with devotions and a hearty breakfast cooked over an open fire (which was attended to **all** night by 3 “we’re not tired” campers!) Joe and I would like to thank our spouses and the Fullers for helping to make the campout a success.

As the school year begins again, we are looking forward to more fun and growth. Check out the on-line youth calendar for special dates and our regular weekly meetings. The website is thewfpc.org We are planning a “lock-in” and the kids have requested the possibility of one more campout this fall. Also, the youth are planning a brat/hot-dog lunch after church on Rally Sunday. Please come and enjoy the food and fellowship as we kick off the Sunday School season of our church.

Our focus this year will be learning to put our faith to work in our everyday life. Hebrews 11 will be our reference and guide. We will talk about being faithful by being obedient to what we read in God’s word and how we are faithful to God if others can depend on us.

Please plan on joining us and make it a habit to spend Wednesday nights with our youth group!! If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call (335-2896 Lisa or 335-7043 Joe) or send an email via the church website or glrittmeyer@verizon.net.

Serving Him,

Lisa and Joe

Jr. High Youth Group Movie Night

You suggested it...we’re trying it! **Movie Night** has been increased and changed. Pizza will be provided by Anna’s. Come and enjoy the show from 6:30 PM—9:00 PM on the following nights.

Friday, Aug. 3 Friday, Sept. 7

Friday, Oct. 5 Friday, Nov. 2

Hope to see you there!

Bring a friend.

More info: Contact Cindy Benson at
815-335-1095



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped with VBS this year. We had a wild ride at Avalanche ranch. Including helpers, we had about 75 youth attending each day. VBS wouldn’t be possible without your generous support.

Our mission project this year was to give prayer bears to Maya’s House and the Winnebago Fire/Police Department.

Cindy Benson & Renee Allen

PW News

The PW Coordinating Team will have a planning meeting on Tuesday, August 28 – 7:00 p.m. at my home to review the fall and winter calendar of events. Mark your calendars for fall circle meetings. Mary Martha Circle meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Naomi Circle meets the third Tuesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. for a potluck lunch. Meetings are generally held at a member's home and occasionally are held at the Church. New members are always welcome!

Thank you to the ladies that served the luncheon after the Mitchell wedding. Your help was much appreciated.

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall!

God Bless!

Sue Jansen, Moderator



Trustees

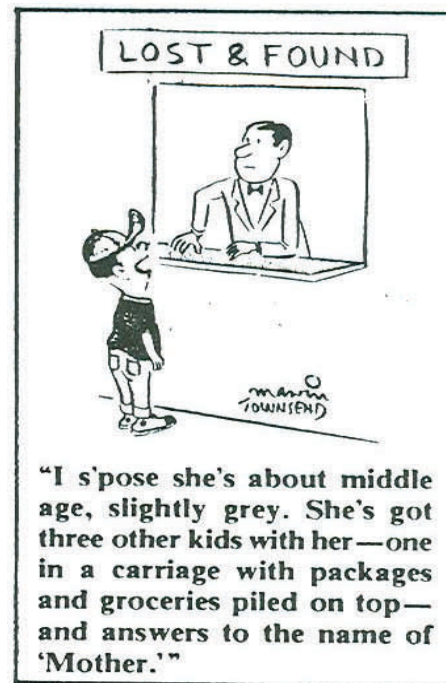
Now that we are in the summer swing of things with our kids in league sports and the family vacation, the projects have slowed but not stopped over the last two months. The trustees have trimmed the shrubs, painted the class room with the new window, and had back dirt hauled in for the edge of the blacktop on the south entrance where it was graded and seeded. In addition, Northern Illinois Concrete Lifting raised the sunken section of sidewalk by the east entrance, eliminating that trip hazard.

The new windows for three more classrooms have been delivered and we will install another opening in August. Also, we have taken delivery of the required lighted exit signs and will begin installing them in August as well.

Hope everyone is having a fun summer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Rittmeyer



Newsletter Articles

Newsletter articles are due on August 23, 2007. You may email them to silla2@aeroinc.net.

MotherHouse Mission

Perhaps many of you will remember last year during the Women's local mission project that we supported both Maya's House and MotherHouse Crisis Nursery. Well, MotherHouse is in need of our support. Please read the letter that the Director Jeremy Brown has written to me and if you feel able to help in the way of supplies or money, just call me at 815-335-2583 or drop off your things at the house. I will gladly deliver our gifts in one trip.

More about this year's Mission project will be forthcoming during the early fall.

In Christ, Susan Slocum

Mission Coordinator for PW

Hello, I am the program manager for Motherhouse Crisis Nursery Center here in Rockford, IL. MotherHouse Crisis Nursery offers families in Winnebago County and the surrounding counties of Northwestern Illinois a prevention-oriented program that focuses on intervening in the cycle of child abuse and/or neglect that may occur during periods of stress due to family crisis.

The primary goal of MotherHouse is to prevent abuse and neglect of children under the age of seven years by providing a safe and supportive care alternative to families in crisis. MotherHouse is open twenty-four hours a day, three hundred-sixty five days a year, serving three meals a day. Services are available to all children who meet the established criteria for admission without regard to disability, race, color, creed, or social status. The physical plant is accessible to children with disabilities, and Nursery Staff do what is necessary to provide equal service and comfort to all children with disabilities.

Motherhouse Crisis Nursery provides a comprehensive service delivery system for parents and children in emergency situations. We interact daily with families in crisis who need immediate help, ranging from emergency care for their child(ren) to food, diapers, children's equipment, counseling, housing, employment, medical treatment, parenting education, etc. These are high-risk families, often exposed to domestic violence, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, poverty and substance abuse.

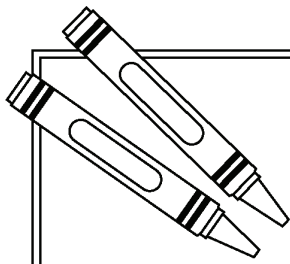
I am writing to you asking for help as our supply stock of paper towels, toilet paper, kids snacks and cleaning supplies is depleted. I am hoping that those of you involved with the community, schools and other programs can help conduct a drive. I know that everyone is busy but the need is severe as we have about 3 weeks of stock left. We rely on donations for these goods, as this is how we off set cost.

If you are interested in helping please send me an email or call (815) 494-7206.

Thanks Jeremy Brown

August 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00 PM Sr. High	2 7:00 PM Trustees	3 6:30-9:00 PM Jr. High Movie night	4
5 9:30 AM Severson Dells Worship	6	7	8 7:00 PM Sr. High	9	10	11
12 9:30 AM Worship	13	14	15 7:00 PM Sr. High	16	17	18
19 9:30 AM Worship	20 7:15 PM Session	21 6:30 PM Deacons	22 7:00 PM Sr. High	23 Newsletter articles due	24	25
26 9:30 AM Worship	27	28 7:00 PM PW Coordinating team	29 7:00 PM Sr. High	30	31	

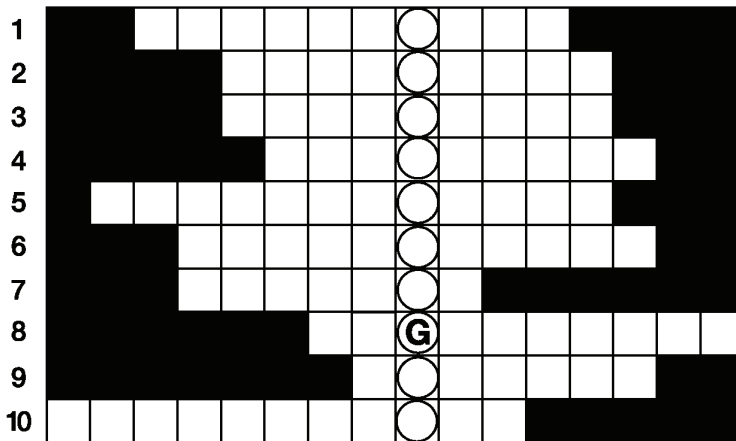


Just for KIDS

Fruits of the Word

Use an NIV Bible to look up the verses below. Find one word in each verse that will fit into the spaces of the puzzle. Use the circled letters (in order) to fill in the missing letters of the Proverb at the bottom of the page.

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Matthew 3:8 | 4) Psalm 107:37 | 8) Genesis 1:11 |
| 2) Amos 8:1 | 5) Deuteronomy 33:15 | 9) John 4:36 |
| 3) Isaiah 3:10 | 6) Mark 4:8 | 10) Hebrews 13:15 |
| | 7) Luke 22:18 | |



“ _ WO _ D AP _ LY SPOK _ N IS _ IKE A _ PLES
 _ F _ OLD IN SET _ INGS OF SI _ VER.”

—Proverbs 25:11

ANSWERS: REPENTANCE, SOVEREIGN, RIGHTEOUS, VINEYARDS, FRUITFULNESS, MULTIPLYING, KINGDOM, VEGETATION, ETERNAL CONTINUITY. “A WORD APPLY SPOKEN IS LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN SETTINGS OF SILVER.”

Make a Picture Frame

Make a picture frame for your favorite summer photo. Hang it in your room or give it to someone special.



What you need:

- ⊗ Buttons, pasta, sea shells, other small mementos of your summer
- ⊗ Glue
- ⊗ Corrugated cardboard
- ⊗ Scissors
- ⊗ Your favorite summer photo

Directions:

1. Cut the cardboard into two matching shapes. (They can be squares, circles, triangles or some other shape.) Make the frame larger than the photo that you're using.
2. Cut a window out of one piece of cardboard.
3. Glue the two pieces of cardboard together along three sides, but not on the fourth side. The photo will slide into this side.
4. Glue decorations onto the frame.
5. When the glue is dry, slide your photo in.