

THE FIRST PRES

October 2007

First Presbyterian Church

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

Winnebago, IL 61088

Pastor's Note

How Do You Measure Life?

As Americans we read, hear and talk a lot about quality. Why? Because quality whether we're talking about people, products, plans, or something we desire is important to us. Anything worth doing, having, or pursuing is measured by quality.

How do you measure Life? Like you measure a string, by its length? Methuselah lived for 900 years, and that is all we know of him. Some of our best men and women were taken by war before they were 21. Some of the greatest died young, too young. Life is more than length.

Do you measure life by breadth? Alexander the Great conquered the whole world and cursed his childhood because he never learned self-control. Adolf Hitler controlled more of the modern world than any other single man. Yet, who wants to emulate Hitler? Life is more than breadth.

Do you measure life by its height-popularity, wealth, or fame? Many people have reached the top and discovered emptiness. They made it, but were never sure of what "it" was. Life is more than height.

Real greatness is measured in depth. Everything else about a tree depends on its roots-everything else about a building depends on its foundation. Depth is the measure of a person!

Many people we intersect with in life are shallow. Shallow people can't take pressure-they're only good for fair weather, and scatter like buckshot in a crisis.

A person of depth is like the sea-winds of circumstance ruffling the surface, but underneath are great, quiet, untroubled depths. With depth, one stands in the critical hour. Such persons meet the real emergencies. They're clear-headed when great thinking, strong leadership, and decisiveness are necessary.

To be or become a person of depth is not an accident. It is the product of time for relationships with God, scripture, prayer, family. To be too busy for God –or others- is to be too busy!

How are you measuring your life, your neighbors, or the person you just read about? In the book of Isaiah we read: "They that wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint". If you seek quality in life then be sure you seek depth and not some other means of measurement.

Session Synopsis

“You’re in good hands.” These are familiar words to most of us. They represent the slogan of a well known insurance company. But these same words also are fitting when we examine the investments of capital of our church family. Mr. Bob Presman, a representative from Smith/Barney reviewed and examined the recent “volatility” of the stock market and how these factors have impacted our investments. Despite the recent roller coaster ride the stock market has been experiencing, the value of our investments continues to be strong. The most current balance showed our investment with a balance of more than \$155,000. Bob recommends that we stay on the present course. We on the Session agree.

After Bob left us, the regular Session meeting proceeded with the approval of the agenda, with additions, the approval of the previous minutes of August 20, 2007, and the approval of the Treasurer’s Report. The current balance reflects the strong commitment of our church family to its programs.

We began planning ahead for October with the sign up to serve Communion on October 7, 2007. Pastor Steve will begin meeting with the leadership of our session commissions in order to expedite the review and completion of new job descriptions. Having these documents current will be a tremendous asset for new elders in the coming years.

In the coming month Pastor Steve with the assistance of key lay members will share and

initiate our fall “stewardship” and budget planning campaign. As we move into the fall months the Session, with the assistance of the Trustees, will be preparing the way to purchase and install several pieces of new technology. These items include a large screen, a projector, and a laptop computer. We are also looking into the cost and possible purchase of one or two “room dividers” which can fold up when not in use.

Our church building continues to offer a meeting space to both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. One new Girl Scout troop has been added this year.

The recent “Rally Day” events generated a great deal of praise. We would like to thank Judie Coots, Avis Lind and their assistants. As we look ahead, we should be excited, because the Lord is active, moving us forward, and honoring us in ministering to His people throughout Winnebago. May the Lord bless you and your family in the coming months!

Sincerely,
Pastor Steve and your Session members

Fellowship Supper Club News

Fellowship Supper Club is planning a trip to the Oregon Tree Research Facility on Thursday, October 4th. We will leave the church at 2:00 PM. We plan to dine in Byron on the way home.

Com join us and learn about trees!

Greeters

This year for greeters, we will be asking all church members to take turns at our Sunday worship. You will receive a postcard with your Sunday to welcome our friends to our worship service.

October Greeters

7th Art & Shirley Burkhart
14th The Ted Busch family
21st Craig & Linda Clausen
28th The Rick Carr family

Deacons

The Deacons met on September 18, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. with five members present. The meeting was opened in prayer by Elaine Look. Moderator Rosemary Runyard welcomed everyone. Minutes and correspondence were unavailable and were tabled until the next meeting.

The treasurer's report was given by Jodell. Bev Samsel presented the sunshine report with many cards, phone calls and visits made.

Pastor Steve reported on families and individuals within our church and community that are in need of support and prayers; then he led us in prayer. He also reported a call from Kris Tarbert thanking our church for the cup cakes provided for the Doner benefit.

Discussion was had regarding the new method of serving bread and juice in one communion tray. Comments were made regarding the difficulty of handling the tray while taking both bread and juice. Pastor will give instructions on how to pass the communion trays immediately before the next communion.

Flowers were given to each Deacon present to deliver to shut-ins.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed with the reciting of the Deacon's Prayer. Our next meeting will be October 16, 2007.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beverly Samsel, Clerk Pro tem

Pig Roast & Mini -Bazaar

The Pig Roast & Mini-Bazaar will be October 27th. Donations of crafts, baked goods and candy will be gratefully accepted. Please plan ahead and prepare some items for this fund raiser.

Also mark your calendar and plan to attend this delicious dinner! Invite your friends! Watch for advance ticket sales.

My Arrival in Heaven

**I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its decor.**

**But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp--
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics, the trash...**

**There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor
Who never said anything nice.**

**Herb, whom I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.**

**I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.**

**"And why's everyone so quiet,
So somber? Give me a clue."
"Hush, child," said He, "They're all in
shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you!**

Judge NOT.

Newsletter Articles

Newsletter articles are due on October 25, 2007. You may email them to silla2@aeroinc.net.

Senior High Youth

The senior high youth group enjoyed their campout in the Smith Woods at the beginning of the month. A big thank you goes out to Mat and Debbie Smith and Ted and Jean Meissen for all of their efforts and support in making this event happen. We had 19 kids around the campfire and 17 spent the night! We talked about many things ranging from the importance of daily prayer in our lives to the rules and regulations of playing "flashlight tag" in a huge hay field!

If you weren't able to join us, please come to our next "indoor" campout. We are planning a "lock-in" event sometime prior to Christmas. Please keep checking the bulletins and calendar for dates. We would love to see more of you on Wednesday nights. We are meeting on the first and third Wednesday's of the month at 7:00 PM.

Thanks to all who helped with the Rally Sunday lunch. Please let Barb Whitney know if you are interested in workcamp this coming summer. She needs to send in a confirmation notice very soon!

Serving Him,
Lisa Rittmeyer and Joe Erb



Jr. High Youth Group Movie Night

"We're having a great time at Movie Night, but we are missing some of you! Join us for the fun! A special thanks to Anna's Pizza for providing dinner."

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 for the flowers, cards, phone calls and get well wishes while I was in the hospital and after arriving home.

Roger Remer

I would like to thank the ladies who made cupcakes for the little Adien Doner's Benefit, also thanks to Lisa Mitchell who helped transport them.

The Johnson and Doner families were very appreciative of what we did for them.
God Bless You,
Shirley Burkhart

Thank you to our friends and church family for the many acts of kindness extended to our family at the time of our brother, Earl Gambrel's, death. All was greatly appreciated.

Anne & Gene Gambrel
Carol & Stan Meyers

The Shoe Box Ministry

I am once again thrilled to tell about the mission that Presbyterian Woman have selected for the year 2007. This is the 5th or 6th year that we have chosen "The Shoe Box Ministry." Like last year, we are filling shoe boxes with items to be given to M.A.Y.A.'s House. This stands for Mothers and Youth Attaining Stability and is a daytime drop in center for Homeless Women and Children, in the Rockford Area. This is a first center of its kind in the Rockford area that provides recreational, educational and life skills building programs for homeless mothers and their children.

M.A.Y.A.'s House is a development in collaboration between Sheltered Ministry, the Junior League of Rockford and the Rockford School District 205. It started in 2003 opening for three mornings a week and we have supported MAYA's House since it's conception. The need was so great and this type of facility so needed that In late 2003, M.A.Y.A.'s House was able to offer a safe haven, five mornings a week. Like many agencies, money has prevented them from being available all day and so the consumers that use this facility must leave at noon for other locations.

A homeless child is one who lacks a "fixed, regular and adequate nighttime place of abode." according to Pat Crowell Coordinator of this faculty. In general, children or youth living in welfare hotels, transitional housing, shelters, the streets, cars, abandoned buildings and other inadequate accommodations are considered homeless. This includes the following groups, children in shelters, doubled-up children (living with another family due to lack of a permanent residence), Migratory children, runaways and throwaways (children whose parent will not permit them to live at home).

Please help in this important ministry, by taking a list of the items and filling a plastic shoe box we can help share our blessings with those going through a very difficult time. This list is found in the newsletter and will be found in the side room in early October. Place your filled box under our "Shower of Love" umbrella and watch the number of boxes grow. All woman from confirmation age on up is asked to help in this mission, however, anyone male or family, that would like to prepare a shoe box is certainly encouraged to do so.

There also is a list called M.A.Y.A.'s House Wish List, this list is filled with items that also would help the agency throughout the day. If you would like to provide any of the items on that list that too is wonderful. Remember however you choose to participate in this mission project would be appreciated. So mothers take your daughter/s, son/s or grandchildren and let them help you shop for this project, make a family affair and remember just how blessed you and your family is.

If you are going through closets and have clothes that are no longer being worn, but still wearable, bring them along. Remember it is getting cool so coats, boots, sweat-shirts and socks are really needed. They tell me that the number one piece of clothing the homeless will do without are socks. Imagine sending your children to school without socks.

We will be gathering these boxes until Thank-offering Sunday in early November. So please fill a box.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 335-2583. Thanks Susan Slocum

Trustees

The Trustees met with the some of the ladies of the church to discuss several options for improving the workflow and increasing storage capacity in the kitchen.

Now that the installation of the new windows is complete for this year, if anyone would like the old window panes or the storm windows please contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,
Greg Rittmeyer

Naomi Circle

The Naomi Circle will meet at 12:30 PM on October 16th. Eleanor Oakes is the hostess.

Mary Martha Circle

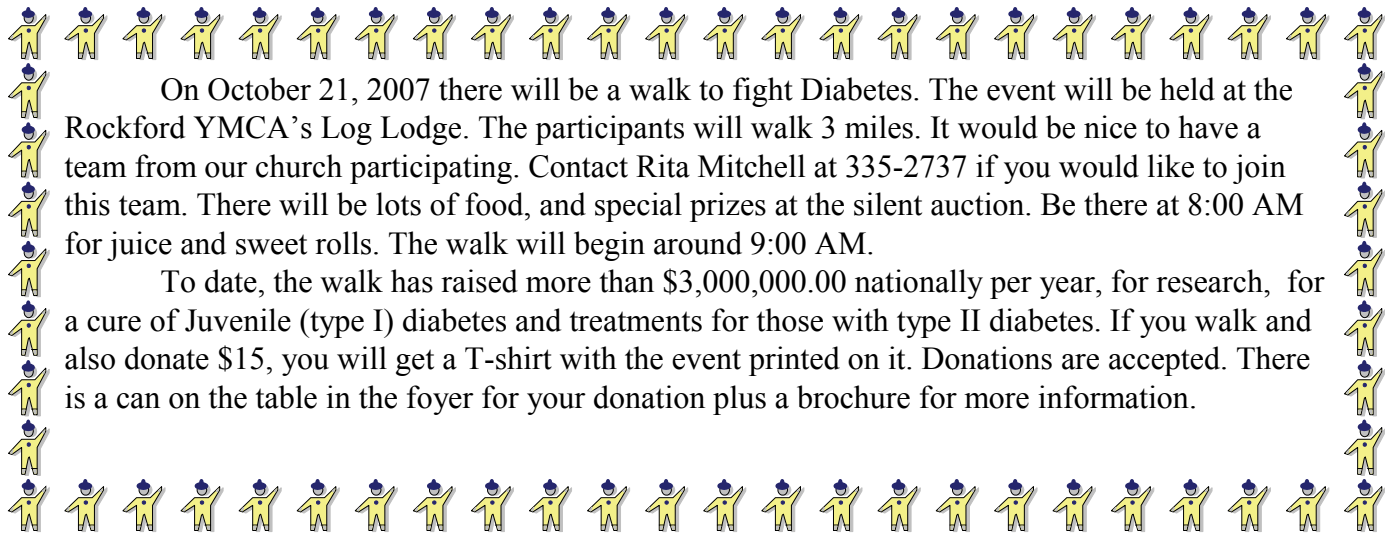
The Mary Martha Circle will meet October 11th at 7:00 PM. Bev Samsel is the hostess.

MAYA'S House Wish List

The following list offer suggested items that would help MAYA's House throughout their day. If you would like to help with these items, that too would be wonderful. If you find yourself with clothes, coats, boots, shoes, socks, towels, sheets, that were too small and no longer being used for your family, those items would be greatly appreciated.

- | | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Diapers | Laundry Soap | Macaroni & Cheese | Baby bottles |
| Disposable Bibs | Bleach | Rami noodles | Latex Gloves |
| Snack items: | Dish Soap | Socks, socks, socks | School supplies |
| Fruit snacks, juice boxes, crackers with cheese etc. | Clorox Wipes | Kleenex | Personal hygiene items |
| | Hand sanitizer | Sheets for twin mattress | Garbage bags |
| | Boxed Milk | Art supplies | Baby food/formula |

American Diabetes Association Walk” Step Out to fight Diabetes



On October 21, 2007 there will be a walk to fight Diabetes. The event will be held at the Rockford YMCA's Log Lodge. The participants will walk 3 miles. It would be nice to have a team from our church participating. Contact Rita Mitchell at 335-2737 if you would like to join this team. There will be lots of food, and special prizes at the silent auction. Be there at 8:00 AM for juice and sweet rolls. The walk will begin around 9:00 AM.

To date, the walk has raised more than \$3,000,000.00 nationally per year, for research, for a cure of Juvenile (type I) diabetes and treatments for those with type II diabetes. If you walk and also donate \$15, you will get a T-shirt with the event printed on it. Donations are accepted. There is a can on the table in the foyer for your donation plus a brochure for more information.

One Woman One Box

The following are suggestions for putting in the "Shoe boxes" for our "One Woman One Box" mission. You can make the box either for a male or female, please note on the side of the shoe box the age and sex. All age groups will include unisex stuff and then ideas for gender specific items. All boxes should include the functional items designated by the "*" before the item. The remaining items are suggestions of what you can choose from and/or if you have something that you think that age group would like, that too is OK.

Little Children 3-5

- *Toothbrush & tooth paste
- *Wash cloth, towel & soap
- *Pack of Kleenex
- Night light
- Matching game or memory game
- Comb and Brush
- Beanie baby type toy
- Crayons and Coloring book
- Matchbox car
- Small doll
- Small book

11-14 years old

- *Toothbrush & tooth paste
- *Wash cloth, towel and soap
- *Pack of Kleenex
- Stuffed toy
- Puzzle book
- Small radio and batteries
- Hand held game and batteries
- Hair goodies for girls
- Disposable camera
- Pad of paper
- Comb/brush
- Uno cards
- Cards
- Deodorant
- Shampoo

6-10 year olds

- *Toothbrush & tooth paste
- *Wash cloth, towel and soap
- *Pack of Kleenex
- Night light
- Journal/diary type book
- Pens/markers
- Stickers
- Disposable camera
- Small Lego kit
- Small action figures
- Comb and Brush
- They have miniature games like etch a sketch and Mr. Potato head
- Go fish or other children's card games
- Stuffed toy

Adult Mother

- *Toothbrush & tooth paste
- *Wash cloth, towel & soap
- *Pack of Kleenex
- Journal and Pen
- Small calendar
- Pad of paper
- Phone Card
- McDonald type coupons
- Comb/brush
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Inspiration book
- Cards

PW News

The PW Fall Gathering was held on Thursday, September 20. Carol Schmooch provided the program including personal reflections and a poem about friends.

Search Committee Moderator, Carol Schmooch, presented a slate of officers for the offices to be filled for next year. The slate was approved and those elected were:

Vice-Moderator – Dixie Leden (1 year only)

Secretary – Beverly Barker

Treasurer – Cindy Erb

Coordinator for Mission Opportunities – Heidi Garner

Search Committee – Michelle Erb

Honoraries – Laurie Speers

Emergency Committee – Mary Lee (with Debbie Smith as a substitute)

Susan Slocum conducted dedication of the Least Coin and Hunger donations. The fall local mission project will be the shoebox ministry. (See article regarding this project.)

PW will host a barbeque luncheon after church on Sunday, October 14. The menu will include barbeque on bun, chips, salads and bar cookies. A free will offering will be taken with the proceeds to help offset the cost of the new refrigerator.

Saturday, October 27 will be the Pig Roast and Mini-bazaar. This is the main fundraiser for PW. A sincere thank you Mary Lee and Shirley Heslop for coordinating the dinner again this year. It is a huge undertaking and you can make their job easier by saying yes when you are called for a donation of food or money, or to work at the event. Please mark your calendar and enjoy a wonderful dinner.

Your donations of bakery goods, and needlework projects or craft for the bazaar will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your generosity in contributing to local and international mission work with your donations to Blanket Sunday and Tools of Hope and the shoebox ministry. Your gifts truly make a difference to those in need.

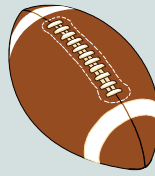
Yours in Christ,
Sue Jansen



Mark Your Calendars:

PW will host a barbeque luncheon after church on Sunday, October 14. The menu will include barbeque on bun, chips, salads and bar cookies. A free will offering will be taken with the proceeds to help offset the cost of the new refrigerator.

October



2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7:00 PM Sr. High Choir	4 2:00 PM Fellowship Supper Club 7:00 PM Trustees	5 6:30 PM Jr. High Movie Night	6 
7 9:00 AM SS 10:30 AM Worship Communion Fellowship	8 6:30 PM Worship Band	9	10 7:00 PM Choir	11 7:00 PM Mary Martha	12	13
14 9:00 AM SS 10:30 AM Worship Barbeque Luncheon	15 6:30 PM Worship Band 7:15 PM Session	16 12:30 PM Naomi 6:30 PM Deacons	17 7:00 PM Sr. High Choir	18	19	20
21 9:00 AM SS 10:30 AM Worship	22 6:30 PM Worship Band	23	24	25 Newsletter Articles Due	26	27 Pig Roast Mini Bazaar
28 9:00 AM SS 10:30 AM Worship	29 6:30 PM Worship Band	30	31 7:00 PM Choir			

Make a "Harvest Cross"

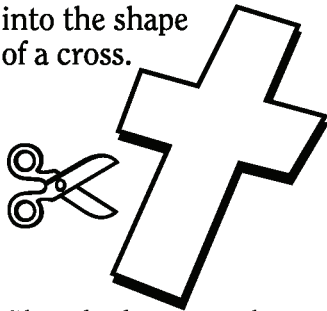
to remind you always to be thankful.

You will need:

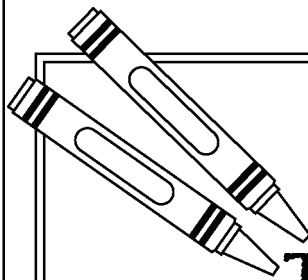
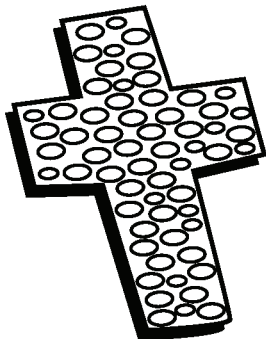
- ✦ a piece of cardboard
- ✦ glue
- ✦ bag of dried, mixed beans
- ✦ scissors

How to make it:

- ✦ Cut the cardboard into the shape of a cross.



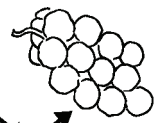
- ✦ Glue the beans to the cross. You can arrange the beans in a pattern or glue them on randomly.



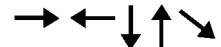
Just for KIDS

The Harvest

Harvest time was very important to the Israelites. They had three harvests each year: barley in spring; wheat in summer; fruits in autumn.



Find these foods that the Israelites harvested, and circle them.



GRAPES	HERBS	OLIVES	APPLES	GOURDS
BARLEY	NUTS	BEANS	ONIONS	LENTILS
ALMONDS	LEEKs	FIGS	CUCUMBERS	
WHEAT	MELONS	RYE	POMEGRANATES	

H	A	C	B	R	Y	E	B	R	V	E	N
G	A	U	A	S	N	O	L	E	M	S	U
R	L	C	R	F	I	G	S	T	A	T	T
A	M	U	L	I	M	B	E	H	A	N	S
P	O	M	E	G	R	A	N	A	T	E	S
E	N	B	Y	E	S	E	L	P	P	A	K
S	D	E	H	R	O	N	I	O	N	S	E
V	S	R	E	S	G	O	U	R	D	S	E
T	I	S	M	E	S	L	I	T	N	E	L
S	E	V	I	L	O	W	H	E	A	T	H