

THE FIRST PRES

March 2009

First Presbyterian Church
of Winnebago, IL

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<http://www.thewfpc.org>

“Unknown, Yet Never Forgotten”

Just outside Washington D.C., across the Potomac River, lies Arlington National Cemetery. Since 1864, some 45,000 courageous men and women have been laid to rest there beneath the soil of that gently sloping hill. Among the honored dead is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This tomb has become a national shrine and is Arlington’s outstanding memorial. Thousands of visitors stand reverently at its graveside every year. The inscription on the tomb reads: “Here, known but to God, lies an unknown soldier.” That monument has come to represent all of the men and women of our armed forces who’ve bravely fought and died defending our nation’s freedom. It’s a memorial not only for every officer but for every common soldier who sacrificed so much.

The Bible has its unknown soldiers scattered throughout its sacred pages; that is, godly soldiers who teach us about sacrifice, courage, love, and faith. Their identities are known only to God; however, the good that they accomplished will be forever etched in the annals of Scripture. For example, there were the 7,000 who did not bow to Baal (1Kings 19:18). There was the maid-servant of Naaman who led her master to a cure (2Kings 5:2). And, most memorable is the poor widow who gave her last two mites to God (Mark 12:43-44). In addition, there were those early Christians who, despite persecution, continued faithfully in their service to God (Acts 8:4). Just like us, these were ordinary, everyday people who did what they could for the cause of Christ. We learn from them that it is enough to serve simply as an unknown soldier, known only to God (Matt. 18:1). Yes, our sacrifice and service may be “Unknown to others, but we are never forgotten, and known by God”.

In Christ’s service,

Pastor Steve

It isn’t what you have in your pocket that makes you thankful, but what you have in your heart.

Hot Chicken Salad Luncheon Sunday, March 15



Save the date and join us for lunch with all the trimmings!

This will be a free will offering to the women of the church

Contact Information...

Here is another way to contact the heads Session, Deacons, Trustees, and PW:

Session -Matt Mitchell at mmatt62@gmail.com

Deacons -Bev Samsel at BSamsel@aol.com

Trustees Chuck Rittmeyer at 1-815-335-2122

PW -Susan Slocum at susanmsw01@verizon.net



If you have a prayer request for the phone prayer chain, please call Bev Samsel at 815-335-2892 or 815-871-8969. Or you may call Bev Barker at 815-335-2963 or 815-964-5591. Please leave a message on the answering machine as it will be later checked to see that Pastor Steve has been notified and if the information has been placed on the church e-mail prayer chain.

If you wish to place a prayer request on the church e-mail, the address is: prayer@thewfpc.org. These requests will be started on the phone prayer chain by Bev Samsel or Bev Barker.

Naomi Circle

Naomi Circle will meet on Tuesday March 17 at 12:30 p.m. in the home of Corrine Gusloff. We will have a potluck luncheon and then our bible study. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle will meet on Thursday March 12 at 7 p.m. in the home of Jodell Brown. We will have a short meeting and then our bible study. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Fellowship Supper Club

The Fellowship Supper Club will be going to the RVC Studio theater on March 28, at 2 p.m. to see the Agatha Christie play, "Peril at End House". We will also nominate new officers and have dinner out. Your hostess will be Jill Sunday.

Chicks With Sticks

The Chicks are meeting Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at Ann Fuller's home. We will be making sweaters in specific colors for the orphans to use as part of their school uniforms and work on our prayer shawls as well.

Thank you...

We wish to thank all of our friends for their thoughts, prayers, and many cards received during Warren's surgery. There is NO DOUBT that prayer is heard and received over and over!!

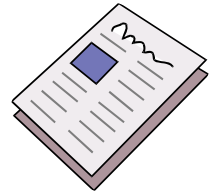
Barb and Warren Cunningham

Jr. High Youth

We had another successful Jr. High Movie Night with 9 kids in attendance, but where were all the girls? Thank you Anna's for pizza. We watched "Kung Fu Panda" and learned we should "Stick with the Game Plan" and God will help us be successful. We also played a "new" old game of Swivel. Does this game bring back any old memories? Looking forward to our next Movie Night, March 13, 6:30-9pm.

Special Thanks to.....

Thanks to Betsy Menge, Darlene Gilbert, Doris Jones, Bev Samsel, Bev Barker, and Carol Schmooch for helping with the newsletter and assembling the PW Dial.



Greeters/Ushers



The session has asked church members to take turns greeting at our Sunday worship. You will receive a postcard with your Sunday listed to welcome our friends to the worship service. If you are unable to fulfill this request, we ask that you find a replacement.

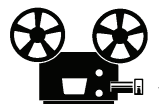
Thanks to our greeters:

Janet Erb, Michelle Erb, Tom and Cindy Erb, Lynn and Judie Coots, Jim and Heidi Garner, John and Corrine Gusloff.

Thanks to our ushers:

Norm Dean, Skip Leden, Chuck Rittmeyer, Greg Rittmeyer, Bob Samsel, Dan Rebholz, Rick Carr, and First TEAM.

Thanks to our Projection crew:



Rick Carr, Jake Fuller, Gene Fuller, Jacob Smith, Casey Benson, Lydia West, and Laura Bybee.

January Church Budget

Beginning Checking:	\$14,504.62
Month Income:	\$10,556.30
Month Expenses:	\$14,005.01
End Checking:	\$11,055.91

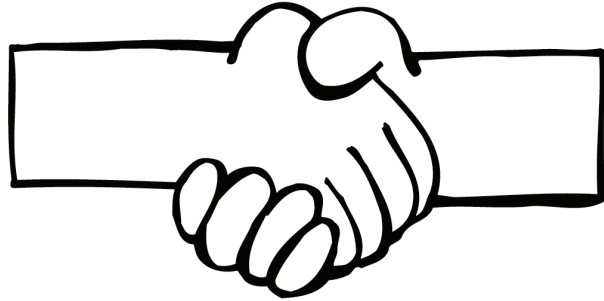
Respectfully submitted,

Janet Erb

Local Outreach Opportunity...

Several people from our congregation volunteer at the Rockford Rescue Mission on the first Friday of each month. They serve prepared meals at 6 p.m. After the meal is served and the dining area is cleaned up, they stay and have an evening of fellowship with the Program men (those who are committed to change their life). They order pizza, and take turns bringing pop, cookies and snacks, and play Pictionary with the guys. Everyone looks forward to this, some of us have done it for over 13 years! Those interested may contact anyone listed:

- Bev Barker 1-815-335-2963
- Dee Taylor 1-815-335-2007
- Jodell Brown 1-815-335-2202
- Dixie Lancaster 1-815-968-5422
- Ted & Jeanie Meissen 1-815-335-2601
- Dale & Merle Fender 1-815-335-2727



Lenten Soup Suppers...

It's that time again.
 Please join us for our Annual Lenten Soup Suppers.
 Soup is served at 5:30 p.m.
 Worship is at 6:30 p.m.
 A free will offering be taken and the proceeds will go to:
 One Great Hour of Sharing.
 Dine with us on Wednesday, March 11th and 25th.



KIDS Puzzle

Psalm 66:1

Find each word from the verse below.

Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

f f d r b g f w y i b x w n
 f l y c c i k k h t c l v h
 v l e a g t a f k v f x i h
 s y g s p i u t k t w c x l
 d x b t n g u p a k w u f p
 l l n k s j y n s z u l q i
 c b h v x h z s d k a j k f
 e l p c e a r t h g v m i s
 f x e e r x l o j o y r c e
 y y l l w l x l a d u l b j
 e u d w p s u q a w i t h e

Deacons

The Deacons met on February 17, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. with seven members present. Darla welcomed everyone and Pastor Steve led us in prayer. Minutes from the January meeting were read and approved. Correspondence was also read for January and February. The treasurer's report was given by Norma and approved. Norma also reported that everything was worked out with signatures at the bank. Shirley gave the sunshine report with many cards sent out including valentines.

Members reported on families and individuals in our church and community who are in need of support and prayer; then Pastor Steve led us in prayer.

Many shared their stories on their visits with our shut-in friends. We had several good laughs about how special our time is with them.

We talked a little about continuing with serving communion to Rena and several other shut-ins. Pastor Steve will ask Elaine if she will accompany him.

Pastor Steve prepared a presentation regarding the Job of the Deacon in the Church and what duties they are to fulfill. The function of Deacons is to perform various types of service that are essential to the ministry of the Church. Discussion was had regarding what should be included in our visits, how long a stay and making sure to include prayer.

The preparation assignments for communion were discussed. Assignments for March 1st are: Loaf of bread - Norma, Cubes - Sue, Juice - Ben. Preparation time is 8:30 a.m.

Being no other business, the meeting was closed with the reciting of the Deacon's Prayer. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Then Pastor Steve led us again in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Cunningham

Trustees

Building



News :

Meeting date: February 5, 2009

New Business:

We discussed the updates to the controls on the boiler that were recommended by our insurance carrier. We had a proposal from the Mechanical Incorporated to complete the project for a price not to exceed \$730. We sent request to Session for final approval.

Our projects this month included:

Checking on why the church water usage had jumped dramatically. It was traced to the new bathroom on the main floor. The Trustees installed a new float valve in the toilet to correct the problem.

We repaired a broken table leg in the nursery.

On Sunday February 1, the elevator failed. Fortunately no one was on board at the time. The Trustees checked it out and found that an unused telephone wire inside the elevator had become entangled with one of the switches causing a fuse to blow. The wire was rerouted, the fuse replaced and the screw mechanism was greased. We also tested a manual crank to use in an emergency.

One of the front pews has a damaged center support. It was removed for repairs so this pew is out of service until repairs can be made.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Rittmeyer

Woman of the Church, PW Stuff...

This is the month for, “In like a Lion out like a Lamb’ or is it “In like a Lamb out like a Lion?” However it arrives or ends, March is here and that means spring is right around the corner and in my book that is great news!!

The last week I have been reading my Horizons, the magazine that PWUSA publishes every 2 months. For those that don’t get the magazine you too can read the articles at www.pcusa.org/horizons. The key focus in this issue is on Multiculturalism and Diversity. Fundamental to our faith is the belief that all people are created in the image of God. As we look around us, we recognize that God has created each of us in a unique and magnificent way. The purpose of this issue is to inspire us to delight in the diversity and multicultural nature of our world. The articles that are included offer a wonderful springboard to dialogue about our differences, embrace those differences and learn how to walk together in spite of those’ difference.

We must expose ourselves, our children, our families by talking about cultural differences, so that instead of seeing someone unlike us as different, we might learn to recognize the most fundamental similarity of all; that all people are children of God. We need to learn about and respect differences so that we can weave a new vision that is made up of all people, God’s children. By the way, the quilt shown on the front of this magazine was created by youth from Rockford, Illinois, as they considered the themes of diversity and unity. I have placed a copy of Horizons on the little table in the hallway. Please take it, read it, discuss it in the hopes that we women of the church can be the vessel that leads to a congregation that can embrace diversity with a welcome for all that wish to worship her.

The National PWUSA is really quite open and embraces many thoughts on topics that are real and alive in our World today. The upcoming Gathering that takes place in Louisville, Kentucky will be July 11 – 15, 2009. This gathering is a wonderful opportunity to nurture your faith with women from across the globe. It is just one event that might encourage you to view our world with new eyes. The Gathering will challenge your thinking, teach new ways of approaching your worship, encourage further studies and offer support throughout. If you are interested in attending this event and are open to possibilities, see me or read about the gathering on line at www.pcusa.org/pwgathering.

Coming events include:

- *March 6th (Friday) 9:00 a.m. World Day of Prayer Service at Burritt Community Church
Bonnie Gray, Coordinator
- *March 7th (Saturday) 1:30 pm Coordinating Team at Slocum’s
- *March 15th (Sunday) Hot Chicken Salad Lunch this is right after church with free will offering.
Please join us for lunch, Sue Jansen and Susan Slocum, Coordinators
- *March 17th (Tuesday) Wear Green for St. Pat’s Day
- *March 29th (Sunday) Birthday Offering Collection Tricia Franklin, Coordinator

Have a great month. In Christ, who crossed many barriers, some pretty unconventional.

Susan Slocum



March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:00 a.m. SS</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>Fellowship (Choir)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Praise Band 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Choir 7 p.m.</p> <p>First TEAM 7 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Trustees 7 p.m. Session 7 p.m.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>World Day of Prayer 9 a.m.</p> <p>Rescue Mission Outreach service 6 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>PW Coordinating Team 1 p.m.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 a.m. SS</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Praise Band 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Soup Supper 5:30 p.m. Lenten Service 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Mary Martha 7 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Jr. High Movie Nite 6:30-9 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00 a.m. SS</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Salad Luncheon Hosted by PW</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Naomi 12:30 p.m. Deacons 6:30 p.m.</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>Choir 7 p.m.</p> <p>First TEAM 7 p.m.</p> <p>Newsletter Articles due</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 a.m. SS</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Soup Supper 5:30 p.m. Lenten Service 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Choir 7 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Supper Club At RVC for play 2 p.m.</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 a.m. SS</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Praise Band 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>31</p>				