

THE FIRST PRES

June 2009

First Presbyterian Church
of Winnebago, IL

Page 1

<http://www.thewfpc.org>

“The Importance of a Christian Father”

I don't know when the trend began but over the course of my life I have observed a disturbing fact. Fathers are taking less and less of an active role in raising their children. When I hear about and see the spiritual wasteland so many of our kids are ending up in, I find myself wondering about their parents, and specifically what role did their father play in raising them up to have strong Christian values, beliefs and practices? The culture we live in today often minimizes the role of dad. The truth is, contrary to what our culture and what the media tells you, dads do matter.

As Dr. Meg Meeker puts it in her book, **Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters**, “Most of you out there are good men... but you are good men who have been derided by a culture that does not care for you, that ...has ridiculed your authority, denied your importance, and tried to fill you with confusion about your role. But I can tell you that fathers change lives, as my father changed mine.”

Dr. Meeker is right. Obviously dads are crucial to both their sons and their daughters, but Meeker focuses on daughters here. In her medical practice, Meeker has treated far too many young women for STD's, depression, eating disorders, and underage pregnancy. And time and again, she has found that the girls involved in damaging behaviors are the girls who don't feel loved and valued by their fathers.

Gentlemen, as fathers you can ensure that your daughters grow up with healthy ideas about their body, their gifts, their ideas, and the limitless roles open to them as women. You don't have to be an expert on women's issues or anything else, to guide your daughter(s) and promote a healthy self image. You just have to do your job as a dad. Talk to her, even when she doesn't seem to be listening. Teach her about the God who loves her and made her. Set boundaries for her. Spend time with her. Listen to her. Maybe it doesn't seem like a big deal to you, but you wouldn't believe the difference it makes to them.

Dads, hang in there and keep doing your job, even if your efforts seem thankless. And in this culture, where dads are often ignored, mocked, and even told they're not needed, your presence and leading is important, maybe more so now than ever before. So gentlemen, plug your ears against what the culture is saying, and remember this: **You matter!**

Your children may not tell you how much your love, guidance, and presence matter, but their lives will always be a reflection of your love, leading, and commitment.

Pastor Steve

First TEAM



First TEAM youth group has a busy month planned. We invite all “new” freshman to join us on Friday, June 12 for a “camping/swimming/movie” night extravaganza! We will be meeting at the church and traveling to the home of Vicky and Katy Lewis (just 8 miles south of Winnebago). This will be a great way to meet some new friends and say good bye to old ones. We will surely miss Gene Fuller as he leaves for UW-Platteville this fall. He has an active member of our church, Sunday school, and youth group and has always added a lot of fund to our meetings. Gene, you will be missed.

The group leaves for work camp on June 21. Please be praying for our kids and adults as they work and learn about serving Christ in Racine, WI. Remember that the youth will be taking food donations with them for the local food pantries. Thank you again for your continued support of this yearly event.



Serving Him,

Lisa

Contact Information...

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

Session -Matt Mitchell at mmatt62@gmail.com

Trustees Chuck Rittmeyer at 1-815-335-2122

Deacons -Bev Samsel at BSamsel@aol.com

PW -Susan Slocum at susanmsw01@verizon.net



If you have a prayer request for the phone prayer chain, please call Bev Samsel a 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 at the church on June 16th at 12:30 p.m. Carol Meyers and Carol Schmooch will be your hostesses.

Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle will meet on June 11th at 7 p.m. Jodell Brown is your hostess.

Fellowship Supper Club

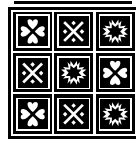
Fellowship Supper Club will meet at Sunrise Family Restaurant, in Byron on June 9, at 6:30 p.m. Ted & Jean Meissen are your hosts.

Chicks With Sticks

We will be meeting to decide on our salad dinner and discuss what we would like to do for the summer.

Something new...

A quilt club is forming at the library. Meetings are on the third Monday of the month, from 5-8 p.m. in the community room.



New additions...

Taggart Freimuth on February 17, 2009, to Brett and Stephanie Freimuth.

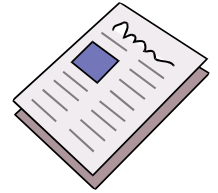
Isabelle Whitney Gray on May 1, 2009, to Jamie and Kylie Gray.

Congratulations!



Special Thanks to.....

Thanks to Betsy Menge, Shirley Burkhart, Darlene Gilbert, Doris Jones and Eva Jean Bachman for their help with the newsletter.



There will be no newsletter for the month of July.

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 church family to the worship service. If you are unable to fulfill this request, we ask that you find a replacement.

Thanks to our greeters:

Jan & Aaron Mitchell, Matt & Thessa Mitchell, Tim & Lisa Mitchell, Jim & Polly Morrison

Thanks to our ushers:

Chuck Rittmeyer, Bob Samsel, Skip Leden, Kevin Rittmeyer, Norm Dean, Dan Rebholz, First TEAM members.

Thanks to our Projection crew:

Rick Carr, Jake Fuller, Kasey Benson, Jacob Smith.



May Church Budget

Beginning Checking:	\$ 8,523.40
Revenue	\$12,915.46
Expenses:	\$13,836.00
End Checking:	\$ 7,602.86

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Erb

Session Synopsis

We are all a where that summer is almost upon us. The summer months bring changes, special opportunities, and events that we don't normally experience during the other months of the year.. With the month of June nearly here, it's important that we note that our time of worship changes the first Sunday to 9:30 a.m. Throughout the summer months, our Cathedral Choir and Praise Team have time off. We deeply appreciate their gifts, time, and personal sacrifices. Their presence adds so much to our Sunday worship service.

As the Board of Elders look ahead and plan for the coming months, they are a where, as we all are, of the financial concerns we are experiencing due to the current economy in our nation and the world. All of us need to be extra careful of our spending during these stressful times. We are therefore questioning where and on what things we are spending our resources.

During the months of June and July, the Winnebago Park District will again be utilizing our fellowship hall. Pastor Steve has several weddings which will also take place in the coming months. And, in the month of August, Bill and Ann Mandeville will celebrate their "50th wedding anniversary" with a open house ceremony.

In the month of June we will be ordaining and installing one new elder. Tricia Franklin will be ordained and fill the remaining 2½ years remaining of Richard Meyer's term. Due to health concerns Richard has not been able to take on his elected position.

After many months coordinating with First National Bank and Trust, Clerk Matt Mitchell has been put on as one of two "authorized people" on our Church bank accounts, and certificates of deposit. We will be monitoring these accounts more closely in the future to avoid the confusion which has happened in the past.

The summer months will bring about a change in staff her. Sometime in June we will be employing a new janitor. Our current janitor, Chris McClure, recently resigned her position.

We are most excited to announce that Lisa Rittmeyer has accepted the position of Director of Christian Education. She will coordinate with Elder Julie Nichols on all matters relating to Christian education. Lisa's role will enable us to better promote, plan, oversee, and follow up on matters relating to Christian education in our church.

We the session and staff wish you a happy and enjoyable summer!

In Christ's service,

Pastor Steve and your church Board of Elders

Deacons

The Deacons met on April 28, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. with nine members present. Bev welcomed everyone and Shirley led us in prayer. Darla presented March meeting minutes, which were approved as read. Correspondence was also read. The treasurer's report was given by Norma and approved. Shirley gave the sunshine report with many cards sent out to friends for Easter, get wells and thinking of you.

Pastor Steve and 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.

Pastor reported on several visits with shut-ins and sharing communion with them. Other members also shared reports on their visits.

Bev discussed preparation of elements for communion with Matt Mitchell from Session. May 3 will be the last time that communion will be served in the pews until Fall. Members were asked to remember when communion is coming forward to line the bottom of the baskets for the cups with foil. This prevents any unwanted drips on clothes, carpet or furniture. She also discussed the new location of storage for silver and trays for communion.

Bev reported that she had taken a meal to the family of Gretchen Reuter this evening and needed someone to take food to them on Thursday of this week. Jodell and Bev Barker volunteered to prepare a meal for them.

The preparation assignments for communion were discussed. Assignments for May 3 are: Loaf of bread - Jodell, Cubes - Bev, Juice - Ben. Preparation time is 8:30 a.m. June 6 is the first Sunday for the summer schedule.

Pastor Steve reported that this Sunday, May 3, is Confirmation Sunday and that there will be 9 confirmands. May 17 is the last day for Sunday School until Fall and May 24 is Memorial Day weekend.

Coffee cups filled with bright spring flowers were distributed by Shirley for members to deliver to shut-ins. Nineteen will be delivered.

Being no other business, the meeting was closed with the reciting of the Deacon's Prayer. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Bev Samsel will give the opening prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Cunningham

Trustees

Building



News :

The Trustees met on May 7 at 7 p.m.

We installed two grab bars in the lower women's restroom.

We had the Winnebago High School seniors here at the end of April for a service project. Over two days and with many hands being supervised by a very brave Skip Leden the preschool room got a much needed paint job. They also painted the floor in the hallway.

Thanks to Skip Leden for also painting the stairs. He is one busy guy! We really appreciate it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Rittmeyer

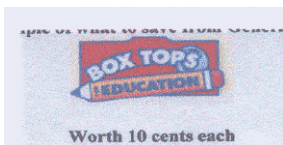
Woman of the Church

The Spring Gathering and Annual Business Meeting of the Presbyterian Women of Presbytery was held April 24th at Morris First Presbyterian Church, Morris, IL. There were 43 members of PW in attendance representing 13 churches. New officers for the PWP CT were elected and installed. The guest speaker was Gerri Smith who portrayed Fanny Crosby, (1820-1915), a blind American hymns-writer and poet, who wrote more than 6,000 hymns and many sacred poems. Her favorite hymns include *Safe in the Arms of Jesus*; *I am Thine, O Lord*; *Rescue the Perishing*; *Pass Me Not*; and *Blessed Assurance*. Geri did her presentation in costume. Her performance was spell binding.

I want to thank all of you who purchased geraniums for the Mother's Day Geranium Sale and to Stacey Weavel and Michelle Erb for coordinating the event. There were 90 plants sold with a profit of \$202.50. Please mark your calendars for the Mother-Daughter Tea to be held on the Sunday afternoon of June 14 at 2 p.m. Liz Bockman, a certified Tea and Etiquette consultant and owner of Everyday Etiquette will provide a presentation on tea and etiquette, including its history, tea types, and proper presentation of tea, health benefits, proper greetings and common tea faux pas.

The Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, Louisville, KY - July 11-15. This is an amazing event with thousands of women from all over the world in attendance. Wonderful plenary speakers, plus beautiful performances and lots of singing, also many workshops will keep you on the move from early morning until bedtime. Susan Slocum and I are going. We would like more women from our church to enjoy this event. The PW has scholarships available for anyone who would like to attend. Please contact Susan for more information.

Another event coming up this summer will be the Kemmerer Village Open House on August 9th. This is their 95th year of ministry and care for troubled children and families. One method they use to help the school is for us to send to General Mills "Box Tops for Education" labels and Campbell Soup labels. See example below.



The address for Kemmerer Village is 941 N 2500 East Rd, Assumption, IL 62510-9706.

Enjoy the summer. Please take advantage of these wonderful events coming up.

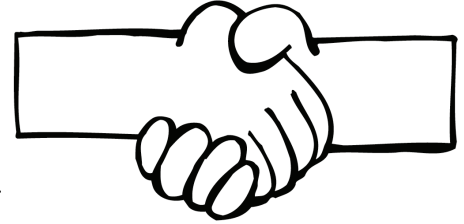
Jill Sunday
PW Vice-Moderator

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



Memorial Committee

2009 Memorials

Organ Chime Restoration in memory of:
Evelyn Buffington

LCD Projection Screen in memory of:
Donald Bachman

LCD Projector System Fund in memory of:
Norman Resh

Deaths in the Church Family since Memorial Day 2008:

Michael J. Mitchell, July 21, 2008
 Kyle D. Mitchell, July 21, 2008
 Myrtle E. Schenck, August 21, 2008
 Florence A. Fay, August 25, 2008
 Ida B. Johnson, October 17, 2008

Deaths of Friends of the Church Family since Memorial Day 2008:

Becky (Fender) Kelly, November 19, 2008
 Patricia A. Warkentien, November 25, 2008
 Merle Clark, December 21, 2008

The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.
Benjamin Disraeli

KIDS PAGE

Father's Day Coupon Card Template Printout

Supplies needed:

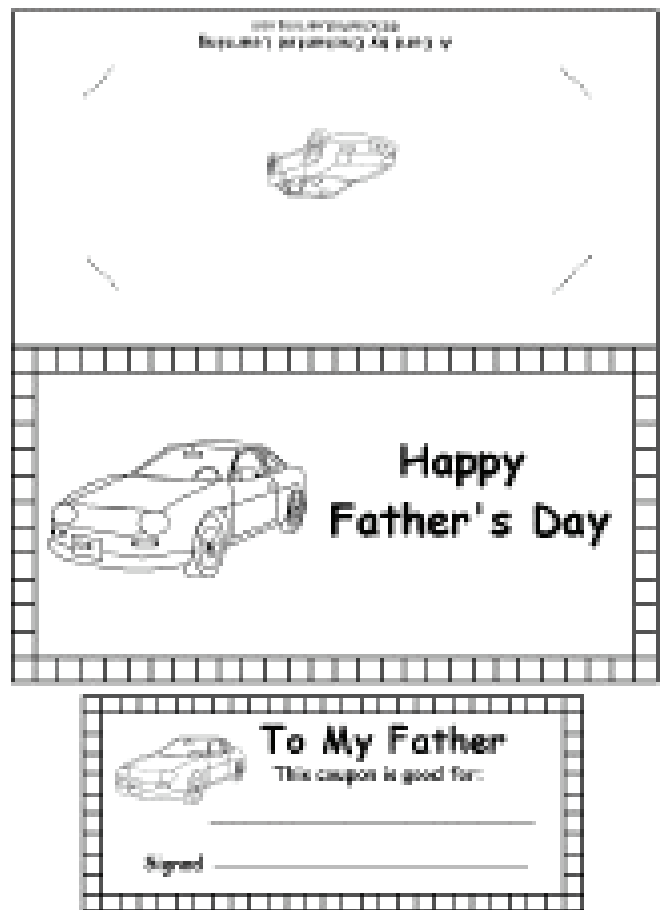
- A piece of construction paper or card stock
- Scissors
- A pencil, pen, and/or crayons

These Father's Day coupon cards are very simple to make. The coupon can be for a big hug, a chore you will do (like washing the car, taking out the garbage, cleaning the family room, ...) or just a loving message.

1. Fold the card in half. Decorate the front of the card and wish Dad a Happy Father's Day.
2. Fill out a "coupon" to put on the inside
3. On the back of the card, cut four slits, one in each corner, so you can tuck the corners of your coupons fit in the slits.
4. Insert each of the four corners of the coupon in one of the four slits you cut in the card.

You now have nice Father's Day card!

SAMPLE



June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				Trustees 7 p.m.	Jr. High Movie Nite 6:30-9 p.m.	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 a.m. Worship				Mary Martha Circle 7 p.m.		
	Park			District	Camp	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 a.m. Worship		Naomi Circle 12:30 p.m.				
Mother/ Daughter Tea 2 p.m.		Park	District	Camp		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 a.m. Worship		Vacation	Bible	School		
Father's Day		First	TEAM	at	Work	Camp
28	28	30				
9:30 a.m. Worship						