

PRESBITS

A Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church Grimes, Iowa

NOVEMBER 2009

FROM THE PASTOR

I am writing my column on Monday, October 26th. It is right after a memorable Saturday in college football. On Saturday, October 24th, Iowa State beat Nebraska at Lincoln, Nebraska. It is the first time in 33 years that Iowa State has won on Nebraska's home field. Gosh, the last time that happened I was living in Nebraska, serving my first church. Of course I did take the opportunity to call my two brothers who live in Nebraska and do a little bit of ribbing. Then on Saturday night, I watched the Iowa Hawkeyes beat the Michigan State Spartans with a touch-down on the last play of the game. Two improbable games on a day to remember. Then on Sunday, everything kind of came back down to earth as the Minnesota Vikings suffered their first loss of the NFL season. Oh well, guess we can't have it all.

This weekend I talked with my oldest son, Mike, who has accepted a call to be pastor of the United Church of Christ in Anamosa, Iowa. He has finally gotten a date for when he will be formally installed as pastor of their church. He will be installed on Sunday, November 15th. I am planning on going over and being present for his installation on that day.

As you get this copy of the newsletter, we will be involved in our Stewardship campaign. As we think of the financial gifts we will make to the church next year, we will be using the symbol of the temple from the Bible. It reminds us of our church building, which is a place of worship,

education and our life together. But we will also be looking at the work and ministry that the people of God (us) go forth and do from our church building. We will be distributing and sending out Stewardship packets on Sunday, November 8. I ask you to prayerfully consider your financial giving to the church in 2010 and to return your Estimate of Giving Card to the church by Sunday, November 15th. There are return envelopes you may use to return the Estimate of Giving Card. If we have not included enough Estimates of Giving Cards for your family, there will be extra cards on the table at the back of the sanctuary, or you may get one from the church office.

Some people have wondered about the future shape of our choral music program. The worship committee and Session are working on the following plans. We would like to have the choir sing once a month, on the first Sunday of the month. This is a day when we celebrate Communion and Sunday School does not meet during the worship hour. This will enable those choir members who are also involved with Christian Education the opportunity to participate with the choir. We will have choir practice at 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesday nights before Communion Sundays. On the other Sundays of the month, we would love to have people share special music as we do during the summer months. If you can share special music, let me know so I can put you in the worship services.

Yours in Christ,
Lynn

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Session has called a meeting of the congregation following worship service on Sunday, November 8, 2009. Purpose of the meeting is the election of new Elders for the Class of 2012, approval of the pastor's compensation package, and receiving the 2010 budget previously approved by Session. All active members of the church are eligible to vote.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in regular session on October 12th with the following items of interest:

*Active membership is 165. Average attendance was 75. Fifty-seven persons were served Communion on October 4th and Home Communion was served to 3 persons on the 11th. Cyndy Bolsenga was assisting Elder.

*Julie Cloud and Paul Walther, members of the Presbytery's Congregational Care & Development Committee met with Session for their Biennial Visit.

*The Session records review is scheduled for October 29th at Covenant Presbyterian Church in West Des Moines.

*The Alpha Youth assisted in serving the homeless meal on September 20th.

*The first Mid-Week Connection was held on October 7th. A spaghetti supper and activities were provided for 10 adults and 9 youth.

*We will be the host church for the Community Thanksgiving Worship Service on Wednesday, November 25th.

*CD's of the Sunday service are being made for those unable to be in church. If you are interested in receiving a CD, please call the church office.

*Session voted to suspend the By-Laws

this year only, to hold the Congregational Meeting on November 8th instead of in October.

*Resumes are being received for the Office Manager position.

PRESBYTERY REPORT

The next meeting of the Des Moines Presbytery will be held Tuesday, November 10th at the Earlham Presbyterian Church. Jo will be the Elder Commissioner, and Lynn will be attending as pastor.

Jo and Lynn continue to participate in the Alternative Ordination Exams for Cindy Ray. Because of the busy schedules at this time of the year, the next exam will be given in January.

A special offering of \$281 was taken on October 4th and sent to the Presbytery office to be applied to the Presbytery deficit.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church will be the host church for the Community Thanksgiving Worship on Wednesday evening, November 25th at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Glenn Ray from the Grimes United Methodist Church will be bringing the message and pastors from the other churches will also be participating.

Rita Rosenberg will be leading a combined choir in a Thanksgiving tribute.

HARVEST HOME DINNER REPORT

Although final figures are not yet in on the Harvest Home Dinner, preliminary results are good. It looks like the net profit will be at least \$2200. This includes \$550 profit from the Place-mats.

SAVE THIS DATE!

Saturday, December 12th, the Presbyterian Women will be hosting a Christmas Brunch for all women of the church and their guests. Come enjoy fellowship, a tasty brunch, and beautifully decorated Holiday table settings. We hope to see you there.

HALLOWEEN PARTY - 2009

This year's Halloween party was held on October 25th and 56 adults and children attended. It was quite a sight with witches, skeletons, clowns, a tiny football player, Rapunzel, the Hulk, and many, many other wonderful costumes. Even the Cat in the Hat was sighted.

Following our wonderful meal of pizza, bars, and soda, games were enjoyed by everyone. There was pin the nose on the Jack O Lantern, ring toss on the witches hat, a musical number game, various crafts, and a guess the number of pieces

of candy in a jar. The evening was closed out with many games of Bingo. Great numbers of prizes were given out.

A special treat was the Ice Cream cake provided by Carol Crow for her Great Granddaughter Scarlett's 3rd birthday. Everyone sang Happy Birthday and gave Scarlett a great round of applause.

A large thank you to the following who helped decorate, serve, provided bars and ice cream, and assisted with the games and crafts. Carolyn & Ron Martin, Carol & Jerry Crow, Gai Shields, Donna Miller and Donna & Jack Lewis.

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

The 2010 Stewardship Drive is under way. This year's theme is "New Love - New Mercy" from Lamentations 3:21-24.

Packets will be given out to those in church, and will be mailed out to those not here. People are asked to return their Estimate of Giving Cards by November 15th.

CHOIR NEWS

Choir members are working on a new configuration for the choir for the remainder of the year. They are hoping to sing the first Sunday of the month - which is Communion Sunday. Since there is no Children's Church on this Sunday, it would give those people working with the kids during worship a chance to join other choir members to sing. Choir practice would then be the Wednesday night prior to the first Sunday of the month.

If you would like to participate, please be here. You will be welcomed with open arms!

It is that time of year when we all gather together, young and older, tall and short, and are assured there is a job for us to do! We need the little hands, the tallest of the tall, and the shortest of the short, and all sizes in between.

We will gather at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday evening, November 28th for a bowl of Bev Boyd's hearty stone soup, then begin the task of decorating the church for the coming of the Christ Child.

Your first job begins the Sunday before, November 22nd, when you will bring your contribution to the soup. As you know, the church furnishes the meat for the soup, and everyone else brings what they would like to go in - which makes every batch different!

Want potatoes? Bring them. Carrots? Barley, Green Beans, Corn, onions? Bring them. Do you have a secret ingredient to make your soup extra special? Share it with us!

Get your calendars marked now!!!

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Congratulations! to Bob & Gwyn Heston on the birth of their daughter, Grace. We love seeing all the new babies in church lately!

Dee Summy came through her carotid artery surgery O.K. We pray for a speedy recovery.

Our sympathy to Loyde Lull. Valerie, the wife of

Bonnie's brother, Gerald, died this past week. Services were in Council Bluffs.

We ask that you continue to keep Don Kerns in your prayers.

Jan Armstrong was in Iowa City recently for another opinion on her eyes. She will need to continue having shots in order to try and stop the bleeding.

Don & Jo's great-nephew, Josh, was in a motorcycle accident and broke bones in his neck and back. He has begun the long road to recovery.

Melodee Grefe's sister had surgery last month. We pray things go well for her.

We ask for prayer for the family of Harley Race on the death of Harley's wife. She was a friend of Jeromy Robb.

The son-in-law of Dee Summy is not progressing well after suffering a stroke earlier.

Check out the booklet on the table in the hallway outside Jo's office. It lists 10 "Outstanding Women You Should Know" and our own Susan Ballard is one of the 10. Congratulations, Susan!

the feet of Christ, slowing our pace to match those using walkers. Let us be the smile of Christ, the One who never forgets his aging children."

In closing we would like to thank you for the honor of serving our homebound members and ask that you also remember them daily in your thoughts, prayers and with calls and visits. Here are two Bible verses that we read this month and thought you might enjoy: Ephesians 4:31-32 and Romans 8:31

.....by Susan and Phyllis

This has been one of those joyous months for us. So many blessings to celebrate with our members. First of all we delivered a casserole to Bob & Gwen Heston and saw their beautiful new daughter, Grace. Congratulations Bob and Gwen! We also visited Eunice Wiles on her 95th birthday and presented her with a Prayer Shawl from her church friends. As always, we enjoyed our visit with both Eunice and Melvin. Another blessing this month was the 70th Wedding Anniversary of Darline and Raymond Urfer. We took them a card and a few little gifts from the church. Three other visits we enjoyed this month included Billie Finch at Spurgeon Manor, Pauline and Jim Hazen, and Don and Vivian Kerns at home. In the spirit of giving we wanted to share something with you. When we called Vivian to see if we could bring her and Don a casserole, Vivian asked if we could bring the casserole and give it to her neighbor who was having some serious health problems. Hearing that, we brought a casserole for their neighbor but also for them. Thank you Vivian for that lesson in giving and also thank you to those who have been so faithful in making casseroles!

This month we read an article that the Presbytery of Des Moines published by Missy Buchanan regarding older adults and we thought we would share some of the insights. First of all the article states that the greatest fear most older adults have is one of being left alone and forgotten. It continues on and I quote, "Do churches truly understand this fear, especially among those who are frail? Are families keenly aware of the importance of their presence in the lives of older loved ones? Let us be the hands of Christ that hold wrinkled, trembling hands in ours. Let us be

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Kyle Rosenberg
Virginia Shiffer
- 2 Amy Aeschliman
- 3 Sheryl Bacon
Paul Buckalew
Evan Grim
- 5 Regina Sonnenschmidt
- 6 Mary Peitzman
- 7 Don Hart
- 8 Kay Bartelt
- 10 Nellie Bartelt
Ryne Dunphy
Emily Mueggenberg
- 13 Dave Bolsenga
Keith Workman
- 14 Jerry Shields
- 18 Billie Finch
Bradley Grefe
- 19 Phyllis Rosenberg
- 22 Arlene Templeton
- 26 Kathleen Wengert
- 28 Cliff Voecks
- 30 Jack Lewis
Linda Wong

ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Ken & Marjorie Jerome
- 11 Brock & Stacey Finley
- 18 Tim & Natalie Rolow
- 23 Gene & Judy Pastour
- 26 Don & Ruth Wallace
- 27 Aldo & Phyllis Forneris
- 30 Vern & Bev Adams