

FAIRPLAIN PRESS—OCTOBER 2009



If he were alive today, he would be 500 years old. I'm speaking of John Calvin (1509-1564), the great reformer, who was the chief formulator of Presbyterianism.

Calvin devoted much of his life to explaining the meaning of the Bible in direct relationship to Christ. He saw the Bible as a record of God's grace which the Holy Spirit causes to come alive for the faithful reader. Calvin's emphasis on grace led him to the doctrine of election—the belief that the Christian is able to choose God only because God has first irresistibly chosen him.

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Calvin is also well known for establishing a distinctive form of church government. He provided four types of church officers: pastors, teachers, elders and deacons. "The clergy were equal, without superior bishops over them, and the lay elders, twelve in number, were elected by civil magistrates from their own number, to share with the clergy in church government. These principles paralleled the representative civil government that had emerged in such commercial cities as Geneva and would contribute greatly in later years toward the development of democracy in the western world." (from "A Brief History of the Presbyterians by Lefferts A. Loetscher—The Westminster Press—1983—p. 25)

Calvin was highly supportive of all levels of education. He considered learning to be closely related to the Christian life. And for Calvin, the Christian life was a Christ-like life as set forth in the scriptures.

Calvin believed that Christian worship should have an emphasis on the mind and conscience and away from symbols and appeals to the senses. He included read prayers and free prayer in his services.

Calvin will always be remembered for giving a theological backbone to the reformation. His "Institutes of the Christian Religion" remain landmark achievements from a man who devoted most of his life to study, writing, preaching, consulting and administration. He died at age fifty-four having loved the Lord with his heart, mind and soul.

In Christ's Service,

John L. Munson

FOR YOUR INFORMATION!



PEACEMAKING ACCOMPANIER

Jean and Steve Doughty recently returned from serving with Presbyterian Peace Fellowship as Accompaniers of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia, and will be with us on Sunday, October 11. Since year 2000 over four million Colombians have been displaced by civil strife and human rights violations.

The couple spent a total of eleven weeks accompanying Colombian Presbyterians who are working for peace, justice and human rights in a great variety of circumstances.

Jean and Steve are active in North Presbyterian Church, Kalamazoo. Steve was formerly General Presbyter for Lake Michigan Presbytery. Jean and Steve will both lead worship and be available for follow-up discussions during the church school hour.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



A Congregational Meeting will be held on October 18, following the worship hour, for the purpose of acting on the following:

There shall be twelve elder/trustees divided into three equal classes, one class of whom shall be elected each year at the annual meeting for a three-year term. No elder/trustee shall serve on the board of elder/trustees for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six years; but shall be elected to a new term until one-year shall have elapsed. (Re: Book of Order G 14.0222)

Nomination for Church Officer:

I suggest the name of _____ for nomination to the office of:

_____ Elder

_____ Deacon

The committee needs additional information to help decide, among the names suggested, whom to nominate. To help them consider this persons' qualifications, please comment on the candidate in such areas as the following (use another sheet of paper, if necessary):

Church Involvement

- attendance at public worship
- participation in church activities
- offices held
- services rendered

Christian Living in Daily Life

- within the family
- at work
- in the community

Personal Characteristics and Skills

- cooperativeness
- willingness to learn
- ability to follow through on assignments
- openness to new ideas
- maturity of judgment

Particular Qualifications for this Office

Drop this form in the box provided in the narthex by October 7, 2009.

Your signature:

_____ (optional)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Ellen Woerner
- 1: Emily Cole
- 2: Jacob Prince
- 3: Nancy Keegstra
- 3: Judy Machalleck
- 5: Sarabel Goulet
- 6: Elaine Bush
- 7: Verne Myers
- 15: Sarah Cole
- 18: Ben Duda
- 20: Robert Smith
- 21: Phyllis Montgomery
- 24: Jo Ann Hartzell
- 26: Lisa Kelleher
- 27: Holly Wingard
- 30: Bert Stuber
- 30: Eric Myers
- 31: Gerald Yoakum



COLLEGE ADDRESSES

- Eric Welch
4101 Parker House
Baits I
1230 Hubbard
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
734/565-2725
- Kevin Welch
7221 Douglas House
Bursley Hall
1931 Duffield
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
734/565-7749

WOMEN'S CIRCLE

The Women's Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 13, at 9:30 am in the Courtyard. Janet Spicer will lead devotions and lesson.

NEW ADDRESS

Lew Stryker
4581 Red Arrow Hwy. #16
Cedar Crest Apartments
Stevensville, MI 49127
408-0801

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

For those of you who had their pictures taken for the new photo directory, or submitted a photo, please pick up your copy which has your name on it, in the church office.

Marlene Smith

NEW BABY



We have received an announcement from Sue Comfort that her daughter Kari, and husband Mike, have a new baby boy. Drew Michael McCloud, was born Friday, September 18, weighing 6 lb. 15 ounces, and 21 inches long.

MUSIC NOTES!

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October 17 is just around the corner, and that is the evening Austin Huntington will present a cello performance in our sanctuary. The day is Saturday and the time is 7:00 pm. There will be no charge for the performance, and the Huntington family will be very pleased to see their friends from Fairplain Presbyterian.

He will be accompanied by Paivi Elroth, a native of Finland who has several degrees in Piano Performance. She is currently the collaborative pianist at the University of Notre Dame and accompanied Thomas Huntington on the violin when he appeared in our church last year. Do plan to attend, and please bring your friends and neighbors.

It is good for the choir and hand bell groups to be back in full swing after being off for the summer, and we are looking forward to our annual Christmas Evening of Music on Sunday, December 13, another date to put on your calendar. As well as being a challenge to perform music correctly, it is also a pleasure to have fun and fellowship at our rehearsals and anyone is welcome to join us!

Dorothy Trachte,
Director of Music

PARISH LIFE NEWS

Harbor Shores Golf Course Tour

Would you love to see the new Harbor Shores Golf Course up close and personal from the comfort of a golf cart? This is your chance. Sign up in the church Courtyard for one of the 30 seats available on Monday, October 5, at 2:00 pm. We will meet at the golf clubhouse (M-Tec Center, Klock Rd.) at 1:45 pm. Refreshments provided after the one hour tour. Sponsored by Parish Life.

Latin Fiesta!

As we get into Fall and the temps become iffy, join us on Tuesday, October 20, from 6:00-7:30 pm when we will heat things up with our Latin Fiesta! Parish Life will provide everything you need for making your own taco and you bring a salad or dessert to share. Look for music, fun, and maybe even a piñata!



Kitchen Clean-up

This invitation is for everyone! We need you!!!! Men, Women and Children! We will be working on Saturday, October 24, from 10:00 am-12:00 noon to clean the church kitchen. It is in desperate need of a deep cleaning and we need all of you to help us get the work done. If you can't do the work, come for moral support and fellowship. Delicious treats and coffee/tea will be provided to entice you to join us! Bring your own gloves and a bucket!

Mae Reed



PRAYER CONCERNS

The following people welcome your prayers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Prayer Requests</u>
Eleanor Armstrong & family	Acceptance of the change in our lives
Mary Bartels	That daughter Barbara's third surgery is successful
Bill Bentley	To give him the strength he needs to help Peg
Peg Bentley	Gain more strength, be able to exercise, and come back to church
Elsie Berberick	Continue in her recovery after hip surgery
Ruth Caldwell & family	To help them through their grief
Margaret Cartter	To help her cope with her diabetes and arthritis
Don Leatz	For the success of the cancer treatment program
Evelyn Lundy family	Keep her family in our prayers so that God's comfort might be known
Jenna McAllister's sister, Tory Thomas	Continue recovery from a head injury as a result of automobile accident
Pat McAllister	For the strength to face the challenges of each day
Sgt. Zach Meyer	That the Lord watch over his family while he is away in service to our country
Ron Price & family	To give them strength to get through this time of grief
Cheryl Schadler's father, Roger Hoge	To get blood pressure regulated and overcome other health problems.
Betty Schneider	Help doctor get her blood platelets under control and help get her family through their crisis
Sally Schnese	"I go to the hills for my help, which comes from the Lord".
Susan Slabbekoorn's mother, Dolores Klinefelter	For the success of chemotherapy
Thelma Smith	Success of knee surgery
Sonja Stormo's friend, Taylor Strand	To continue the good progress in recovering from severe burns
Pat Van Huis' sister, Dolores Barkel	Provide hope in coping with cancer and strength to get through chemotherapy
Ken Woltman	To get stamina back
Dorothy Wright	That she won't fall again and pray for others in need

MINUTE CLERK: SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

We greet the fall season with the joy of a new church school year and anticipation of new seasons of God's work. We have been blessed with many visitors. Please continue to welcome all guests with the hospitality that is a Fairplain gift.

We accepted Elder Nicci Butler's resignation from Session with regret. Her work schedule now interferes with regular meeting attendance.

Contributions are still running behind budget. We ask all members to look over their pledges and bring them up to date. We also encourage any extra giving as the Lord may lead you. The capital campaign is close to schedule.

The mission and stewardship committee has begun working on the 2009 campaign with Celebration Sunday planned for November 15. Please prayerfully consider the work and blessings of God in your lives as you respond in gratitude to God's grace. Giving is an act of worship. Let us worship God with all our hearts, minds and souls, and through our gifts enable the growth of God's kingdom on earth. We encourage every member to pledge as a commitment to the Lord – no matter how small the gift.

Personnel committee is interviewing candidates for a Young Youth Leader.

Lake Michigan Presbytery will be conducting its Triennial Visit with Fairplain on Monday, October 12. The Rev. Tom Abbott of Paw Paw and Elder John Cox of Marshall will meet with the pastor and staff and then independently with the session. These visits are intended to provide resources, help or encouragement from presbytery and to gather information about exciting things going on in churches throughout our region. The sharing of ideas and programs should benefit both our church and other churches in the Presbytery.

Other approval votes:

- "Live Big" as the final choice for church school as tentatively approved in August.
- Church School Teachers: Kristen Robinson, Kara DeFrancesco, Kim Edinger, David Kelleher, Shellie Jaques, Susan Slabbekoorn, John Kauffman, Rob and Sally Barker.
- Harbor Shores Tour, October 5, 2:00 pm; Latin Fiesta Potluck, October 20, 6:00-7:30 pm; Kitchen clean-up, October 24, 10 am-12 noon.
- Invitation to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan to meet at Fairplain in June.

Leslie Gilreath
Clerk of Session

NOTE: Any member is welcome to attend session meeting to address a specific issue or concern. Contact clerk Leslie Gilreath or Pastor Munson to be added to the docket.



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE!



RUMMAGE SALE OCTOBER 1 & 2

There's still time to bring your rummage! As you are doing those summer clean-up chores around the house and garage, please remember the fall Rummage Sale. The sale will be held on Thursday, October 1, from 9 am-4 pm and Friday, October 2, from 9 am-noon.

We need clean clothing (sorry, no shoes), household items, lawn and garden tools, toys, books, jewelry, etc. Also, if you are bringing linens, please mark sizes. **Your rummage items need to be brought to the church no later than Wednesday, September 30, by 12:00 noon.**

If you need help with transporting a large item, call Diane Cronk, Jo Ann Hartzell or Linda Zitta. Much help will be needed for setting up, working the sale and clean up. We hope many of you will be able to give a few hours of time to this project. Many hands make light work!

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

The church has installed a new defibrillator and a training session has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, from 6:00-8:30 pm, in the Courtyard, led by Mr. Jack Blacker. Church staff, Elders and Deacons have been contacted for this training session.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY PEACEMAKING OFFERING

Sunday, October, 4 is World Communion Sunday, and the peacemaking offering will be received. The funds support ministries that seek peace and work for justice across the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Each congregation is encouraged to retain 25% for ministries of peacemaking within the congregation and its community. Presbyteries and synods divide 25% to support their ministries; and 50% of the offering is used by General Assembly Council ministries. A listing of how the council plans to spend its 50% share of the offering is printed on the bulletin board across from the church office. Please use the offering envelope enclosed with this newsletter or provided in your bulletin on Sunday, October 4.



SEPTEMBER SOUP KITCHEN

A total of 170 people were served at the September soup kitchen. The menu included turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, bread, brownies, and apples, donated by the Gundersons.

Servers were Mike & Pat Cockrell, Larry & Pat Smith, Keith Zitta, John Kauffman, Cindi & Ted Pietruszka, and Sonja Storma. Brownies were provided by Linda Zitta, Rae Rotgers, Sonja Stormo and Ellen Woerner.

Pat Cockrell

OPERATING BUDGET UPDATE!

Operating Budget January - August 2009

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income			
Offering and Pledges	\$ 174,022	\$ 161,061	\$ (12,961)
Other Income	<u>\$ 6,160</u>	<u>\$ 5,078</u>	<u>\$ (1,082)</u>
Total Operating Income	\$ 180,182	\$ 166,139	\$ (14,043)
Expense			
Total Expense	\$ 177,338	\$ 173,704	\$ (3,634)
Net Income	\$ 2,844	\$ (7,565)	\$ (10,409)

MISSION STATEMENT



We, the members of Fairplain Presbyterian Church, rejoice in God's grace and redeeming love through Jesus Christ. We believe we have been called as God's children to create an open and welcoming community, to worship and praise God, and to nurture and support each other.

We are called to develop our God-given gifts and to equip ourselves to reach out to the world in love and compassion. Thus prepared, we will share our faith, preach the gospel, feed the hungry and be peace-makers according to God's will.