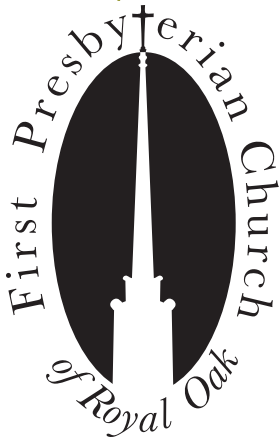


First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

Church Bell



June + Summer 2011

A word from our pastor...

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” (Acts 2:1-4)

Which would you say is the most important day in the church year? Christmas? Easter? 5th Sunday potlucks? (Just joking there a bit...) Pentecost?

“What’s Pentecost?” you might ask. Good question! As central as it is to who we are and why we are here—as pivotal as it is to salvation history—“Pentecost” can be an exceedingly well-kept secret in Presbyterian circles.

Join us on Sunday June 12th as we celebrate Pentecost together! A team of church members of all ages, participants in the Montreat (North Carolina) worship and music conference last summer, will be leading us in worship. It will be a creative worship service for all ages that connects with all of our senses. You are invited to wear something red for this special day.

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest celebration that came fifty days after the Passover. After Jesus’ resurrection, however, it took on new meaning. Because 50 days after Easter the disciples experienced the gift of the Holy Spirit. Like a mighty wind, it blew them forward, with power and direction, to new life as the Church of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gave them courage to live out and share their faith. The Holy Spirit bonded them together, and added new members to their community. The Holy Spirit helped them to talk about Jesus Christ in ways that connected with others. And so it is for us, as we celebrate the gift and the power of the Holy Spirit!

In a way it is a frightening and exhilarating day. We are reminded that we are not in charge. And we rejoice as we experience that God is in charge, and God is awesome, and God is good.

Summer is a time to experience that mighty wind of the Spirit, bringing refreshment and new life. On June 5th we will celebrate as our confirmation class “confirms” their baptismal vows and joins the church as full, adult members. June 18th-25th 28 members of our church will be going to the Montreat Worship and Music conference, and coming back energized and ready to share with you what we have learned and experienced. Vacation Bible School will be a fabulous experience for children and teachers and volunteers alike: August 1st-5th. We’ll be having our church camping trip this summer, August 5th-7th at Groveland Oaks. We’re also planning on having softball nights—when all ages can either play or cheer and enjoy being together.

I hope you’ll have opportunities to enjoy God’s creation this summer—whether in a garden, or up north, or wherever you get to connect with the natural beauty all around us.

And I hope you will continue to pray about and talk about our proposed changes to the Sunday schedule. Beginning in September of 2012 we are planning on having worship services for all ages at 9 am and 11 am, and Christian education opportunities for all ages at 10 am. If you haven’t done so already, I’d love to hear from you your thoughts about this proposed change. You can contact me at trice@fpcro.org, or 248.541.0108 x206 to give me your feedback.

God bless you! See you in church and in the beauty of God’s creation!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tom Rice



Congregational Business

OF NOTE:

Anniversary:

Married in the Old Sanctuary, 60 years ago: Ralph & Marion Shepherd celebrate their love together on June 16, 1951.

Deaths:

Mark H. Sutton: April 17, 2011

Seaber Callahan: April 30, 2011

Memorials were given in memory of Seaber Callahan, Evelyn Simon, and Mark Sutton.

A special gift was given in honor of the library

First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak
Budgeted Financial Statement for April 2011

	Actual for Month	Actual YTD	2011 Budget YTD	2011 Annual Budget
Income				
Contribution Income				
Pledge Income	46,122.00	210,998.75	201,000.00	650,000.00
Loose Offerings	4,039.25	10,247.65	8,333.36	25,000.00
Church School	7.00	157.38	200.00	600.00
Special Gifts	3,734.00	4,224.00	3,500.00	10,000.00
Previous Year Unpaid Pledge	250.00	6,023.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
Total Contribution Income	54,152.25	231,650.78	220,533.36	693,100.00
Other Income	93.37	6,841.18	17,666.72	55,500.00
Total Income	54,245.62	238,491.96	238,200.08	748,600.00
Total Expenses	73,355.72	247,666.02	132,409.60	786,941.00
Income Under Expense	(19,110.10)	(9,174.06)	105,790.48	(38,341.00)
General Reserves Transfers	-	-	-	18,942.42
Endowment Equity Transfer	-	-	-	19,398.58
Total	(19,110.10)	(9,174.06)	105,790.48	-



SAVE THE DATE!

Evangelism Training Workshop -

September 24, 2011

8:30-3:30 pm.

From the Production Team:

Do you have something to submit? Please use our email address to contribute to the next issue of the Church Bell: newsletter@fpcro.org.

First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak Staff

Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Rice — *Pastor, Ext. 206*

Rev. Jonathan Evans — *Associate Pastor, Ext. 202*

Donald A. Daniels — *Director of Music Ministries, Ext. 218*

Joseph Jackson — *Organist/Music Associate, Ext. 218*

Carol Lengjel — *Director of Youth Music Ministry*

Dr. Carmel Tinnes — *Director of Christian Education, Ext. 204*

Ivy Debrow — *Child Care Provider*

Rev. Betsy Rice — *Parish Associate, Ext. 201*

Kari Peruski — *Church Administrator, Ext. 203*

Pamela Kaufmann — *Administrative Assistant, Ext. 207*

Alan Glasel — *Facility Manager*

Gary Moultrup/Dillon Warner — *Assistant Custodians*

Jay Kaufmann — *Evening Security/Receptionist, Ext. 200*

Randy Jarman — *Food Consultant*

Julie Matthews — *Sunflowers Director, Ext. 220*

Beth Heitchue/Sue Ann Sirr/Joan Cone — *Sunflowers Teachers*

Soloists

Melissa Maloney — *Soprano*

Alona Moon — *Mezzo Soprano*

Curt Peters — *Tenor*

Greg Williams — *Bass*

Wedding Coordinator

Ginny O'Brien — weddings@fpcro.org

Newsletter published monthly September — June

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ATTENTION CAMPERS:

FPCRO Annual Campout is planned for the weekend of August 5-7. We will be camping at Groveland Oaks County Park. We hope you will save the date and join us for a weekend of family fun, fellowship and relaxation. If you don't like to camp, you can drive up for a

day with friends, a potluck dinner and some games on Saturday. Sign up will begin in June. Bill & Barb Hayes are coordinating the weekend. You can contact them at 248.435.4527 or bjhsander@wowway.com if you have any questions.



LUNCH BUNCH NEWS - Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, June 2, at noon, in the Fireside Room. Our guest speaker will be Mandy Jarman, who will have a powerpoint presentation about her unique semester-long cruise class at University of Miami (Ohio). Come find out how a ship cruise can be a major education event! For the potluck lunch, those with last names beginning A - F should bring a salad or side dish, from G - N should bring a dessert, and from O - Z should bring a main dish.



HOLY DUSTERS / HOLY HANDYMEN

Please join us on

June 6 and June 20 at 10:00 am
in the Christian Education Lobby.



PRESBYS

The Presbys are taking the summer off. We certainly hope you have a wonderful summer and will be ready to get going again in September!

Discovering the Bible Class Graduates

I would like to recognize the members of the 2010-2011 Discovering the Bible class who have completed a year-long study of the Bible. It was my pleasure to study alongside Connie Thompson, Kara Watson, and Karen Maiuri. We enjoyed wonderful fellowship in addition to a terrific study. If you are interested in participating in next year's Wednesday night study (5-6PM), please contact Carmel Tinnes at the church or Julie Decker (248-398-5589). The study is TBA. Congratulations on a job well done ladies!

-Julie Decker

From the Heart -

My most sincere thanks for the many tokens of friendship and thoughtfulness from FPCRO. My 100th birthday was celebrated with visits, lovely greeting cards, and beautiful flowers.

A special thank you to the young people (Mid-Highs) who signed the giant card and to the Deacons.

Sincerely,

Olive Burnett

Proof Readers Needed!

Do you have a keen eye for detail and accuracy? Could you devote an hour or two of your time every couple of months? The Church Belle newsletter production team is looking for volunteer Proff Reeder to assist with production of this publication. If you can help or would like more information, please contact Kate Bell at katiembell@gmail.com. Did you find the three errors in this message, if so, you're spot on!

The Mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

"Called by God's love in Jesus Christ, we respond by welcoming others into an energizing community of worship, learning and service. Moving forward in faith, making disciples of all ages, we are sent out in the power of the Holy Spirit to make a daily difference in the world."

Congregational Business



Musings on Youth in Worship

In the last newsletter, Pastor Rice, with the strong and unanimous support of staff, proposed a change: that people of all ages (except the youngest of children) worship together and that we have an education hour. He invited us to give feedback about this possible change for 2012. With this invitation, I'd like to share a few thoughts.

I rejoice inside when I see our youth and children sitting in pews or assisting in worship. I rejoice inside when I hear the vitality of a baby with us (and yes, there would be a nursery available). I rejoice when I see adults seeing our younger members, knowing who they are, and asking about their lives. I rejoice when we are one community in worship together.

However, when youth and children leave the sanctuary during worship, I feel a loss of energy. I feel sad that we're divided. It's almost like watching a happy face turn to a frown. I feel like we lose something when they leave us. In fact, we lose not just their presence, but what they have to contribute. Just having young ones with us in worship will, over time, change how we worship. I can't say how, but it will.

I do think that the change will require an adjustment, some time, some learning, and some patience. I also believe that it will benefit everyone. I trust that, through worshipping together, we can be the body of Christ in a much better way.

*Peace and grace,
Rev. Jonathan Evans*



The Tom and Ruth Kirkman Scholarship Committee



...is pleased to announce the awarding of five awards for the 2011-2012 school year. These grants are each in the amount of \$1000 and are sent directly to the school of each student's choice. This year's recipients are *Dan Kline, Paul Jankowski, Allison Soboleski, Blair Steen, and Regan Steen*. They were recognized during the 10:30 worship service on May 22 and we congratulate them all. All these youth have been very active at FPCRO during their elementary and high school years. These awards are an opportunity to let them know that we appreciate them and wish them well as they continue their education.

If your child has, or you have ever had, a special teacher or mentor in your life and you would like to honor him or her, contact Kari Peruski in the church business office and make a donation to the Kirkman Scholarship Fund. During this time of graduations and celebrations, no time would be more appropriate!

Gifts can be given in honor of or in memory of anyone special in your life at any time throughout the year. Remember, if you can read this message today, thank a teacher!

A Library Review...or Two:

The Journey

248.4 G

Billy Graham

The remarkable Billy Graham invites you to join him in discovering God's plan for this exciting journey called Life.

Wherever you are in your journey, just beginning, at the middle, or near the end, you have already learned that life takes a variety of paths, and each fork and crossroad requires a decision, some minor and others that can literally change your life.

The good news is that we are not alone. Not only did God carve out the path for us, but he wants to "join us" on the journey and eventually lead us home.

The Coming of Christ

755. H

Chard Danser and Donald Hyatt

The inspiring story of the prophecy, birth and message of Jesus Christ as seen through the eyes of the great masters and told in the words of the Old and New Testaments.

ADULT EDUCATION

Lectionary Class

The lectionary class will not meet from June 12 through Labor Day weekend. Join us at 9:00 am on Sunday, September 11 to explore the texts for the day and prepare for worship.

Are We Good Stewards?

Over the course of the last year, our congregation has focused on various topics of stewardship, the grateful and responsible use of God's gifts in our own lives.

But there is another definition of a steward, one of being a caretaker of something larger than ourselves. That "something", of course, is First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak. In a few years we will be celebrating our church's centennial. And it all started with this brief letter:

Dec. 30, 1913

You are requested to be present at a Meeting at D.K. Smith's furniture store on Monday, January 5th at 7:45 pm for the purpose of considering the formation of a Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak. Bring with you anyone who would be interested.

The rest, as they say, is history. There have been thousands of FPCRO members who have come before us, and God willing, thousands who will come after us. We are the stewards, the caretakers, of our church at this specific time in our Church's history.

How are we doing? Are we faithfully maintaining the vision of our founding members? Are we maintaining the physical church as well as the spiritual church. Are we leaving a healthy, vibrant church for future generations?

"Stewardship" means more than making an annual pledge of financial support. It means understanding our collective role in maintaining, sustaining and growing our church as caretakers.

~Jeff Leestma, Chair

For the Stewardship Committee



Stewardship of Community

When I was first approached to write something for the Church Bell on behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I must say that I was a bit daunted by the task. For those of you who may know a bit about me, I enjoy a challenge, but this threw me for a loop. What can I contribute? What could I talk about, just being a member of FPCRO for less than two years?

The answers to those questions, for me, can be found in one word: Community.

It all began when our daughter, Elise, began to participate and enjoy some of the youth activities at FPCRO on her own. Even as a non-member, she was invited to fully participate in what FPCRO had to offer without pressure for her or her family to join the church. She was welcomed and became friends with so many of the youth. She received an open invitation to join in the fun. We decided that we, too, wanted to join in the fun!

This sense of community is, in fact, what my husband, Greg, and I experienced the first time we attended a service at FPCRO. We were welcomed. Since becoming members, I have joined the Chancel Choir and have loved every minute of it. FPCRO is a community of faith, but also a community of fellowship and friendship.

I have been serving on the Stewardship Committee for four months, and in that time, I have learned so much about the behind-the-scenes work of the church and what it takes to provide a wonderful place of worship, music and community. My eyes were opened by the commitment of our members and our dedicated staff. Each and every person works tirelessly to ensure that members and visitors are greeted by beautiful grounds, a spectacular church and, yes, a welcoming smile.

Have you experienced this wonderful sense of community at FPCRO? People reaching out to others and making them feel a part of something bigger than themselves – this is what Stewardship of Community is all about. I know it works because it worked for me and my family.

~Lisa Dildilian

For the Stewardship Committee

A Library Review...or Two:

The Last Dickens

P

Matthew Pearl

Boston, 1870. When news arrives of Charles Dickens untimely death, it reaches the office of struggling American Publishers partner, Jim Osgood. He sends his clerk, Daniels to await the arrival of Dickens' unfinished novel. But when Daniels body is found there is no manuscript. Osgood attempts to uncover Dickens' final mystery. He finds himself in a life and death struggle to stop a murderous mastermind.

Tahquamenon Country

977.4 T

Sprague Taylor

Our State's history ... and our own families and even of the world ... is, in truth, so local in scale and so minute in detail, that it often goes unnoticed. And so it is with Sprague Taylor. He writes of people whose lives were marked by a river, Michigan Tahquamenon, and the land it sustained.

A very interesting book about the settling of this state and the logging industry that helped to support it.

Worship and Music

What a wonderful year at First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak! As our year of Stewardship comes to a close, I would like to focus on some of the highlights.

Our programming year began with a very special service for Christ the King Sunday, led by our KIC Club children. They led us through the church year with music and scripture, explaining each season and showing us the representative colors.

Following Christ the King, we entered the Advent season with all of its wonderful programming. The brief but meaningful services each Wednesday evening were a perfect way to enter the season. Each week hearing the children's voices leading all those in attendance in "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" was an incredible experience and certainly brought a sense of childlike anticipation and wonder to the season of waiting and preparing. The Chancel Choir provided another beautiful service of "Lessons and Carols" during Advent as well. Christmas Eve brought three services. The family service was moved to earlier in the afternoon, and the traditional services at 9, and a communion service at 11 heralded the birth of our savior.

From Christmas, it seemed like a very short time before Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of Lent. The Lenten season provided another incredible series of worship opportunities. The Ash Wednesday service appealed to all ages. Wednesday evening services once again brought the children participating in KIC Club together with other members of the congregation for a brief service, extinguishing a candle each week as we descended into the darkness that is Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Each Thursday evening, Joseph Jackson led brief services of reflection as well, preparing us for the suffering and death of Jesus.

Holy Week is one of the most emotional times in the church year, and this year was no exception. The communion service on Maundy Thursday was once again capped by the heart wrenching stripping of the church, symbolic of the stripping of Christ from the world. The Good Friday service brought us to the despair and darkness of the crucifixion of our Lord. On Holy Saturday, we joined together for a brief service of reflection and remembrance. We gathered for two services Easter Sunday, one at 9 and, again at 11, with joyous music and a brass ensemble to share in the joy and celebration of our risen Lord.

Still to come this programming year is the annual Children's Musical. Forty of the children in our congregation told the story of "Elijah!" in two performances on May 11 and May 15. Also coming on June 5 is confirmation Sunday when five incredible teenagers will confirm the vows of their Baptism and become full members of our congregation. On June 12, we will celebrate Pentecost with a special service created by our program staff along with a group of church members.

Outside of worship, the music continued through the Luttrell Fine Arts Series. The Holiday Brass Concert given by the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings in December got us all into the holiday spirit. In February, we welcomed Trish Shandor and her trio for the not-to-be-missed annual Cabaret. Finally, on May 22, we welcomed local newscaster, author, and musician Devin Scillian and his band, Arizona Son, for a Sunday evening concert.

Thank you for taking the time to relive the past year with me. I hope that seeing all the worship opportunities that are offered to us will inspire those of you reading to join in them during the coming year and take the chance to grow in our faith.

~ Suzanne Lewand

Children's Ministries

Vacation Bible School

If you have not already reserved a space for your child to attend

Changing the Church - the Reformation to Today
please reserve a place for them today by filling out a registration form. VBS meets August 1-5 from 9:00 a.m. – noon. We are also looking for adult and youth assistants for the week. If you can't help during the week, you can help on Saturday and Sunday, July 30 and 31 as we set up! Participants will meet John Calvin and Martin Luther, and participate in a "Theatre in Education" experience traveling on the Mayflower!



Joyful Journeys

Please sign up to lead ONE week during the summer as we explore Noah's story and other water stories. This is a simplified program, where we ask you to share the assigned

story and activity and supervise the children as they play with games and toys. We especially invite those of you who do not usually lead Joyful Journeys during the school year to try a week! The clipboard to sign up is in the CE Lobby.

We are looking for individuals to lead NEXT year's Joyful Journeys program. Please reserve one Sunday each month to lead your favorite elementary age group! The sign up sheet is on a clipboard in the CE Lobby.

Grounds

Kevin Ball

- Spring clean-up was scheduled for May 14 from 9:00 am to 12 noon. It was suggested to include this in a congregation email.
- There is a support post crack in the play structure. The supplier will replace the post under warranty but installation will be separate. Kevin is soliciting bids.
- The asphalt repairs by Total Lawn Care due to snowplowing damage can not occur until May when materials are available.
- Kevin explained that the bids for lawn care have been reviewed and is recommending the contract continue with Total Lawn Care at the same price as 2010 except for a \$10 increase in sprinkler maintenance.

UPON MOTION: Lawn Care Contract for 2011 awarded to Total Lawn Care was approved.

Computer

Greg Gillham

- The committee installed a wireless router which can provide guest access to the Internet. Guest access is not yet active.
- Installed an Internet drop in Alan's office and moved a PC into this area so that he can access email from his office.
- Updated Symantec Antivirus support to latest version on server and all PCs.
- Will investigate how other local churches support their network in an effort to determine how we should move forward as the network is due major updating over the next year.

House

Dennis Janney

- The first phase of the ADA toilet replacement has been completed, including 5 new toilets. Contract was awarded to The Drain Surgeons.
- House is recommending replacement of the aging and leaking circulator pump behind the stage. The cost of \$5,975.00 would be covered with \$2,500.00 in unallocated funds and \$3,475.00 reallocation of funds from House electrical repair (targeted for Kirkman Fellowship Hall lighting improvements).

UPON MOTION: A contract with Motor City Heating and Cooling for up to \$5,975.00 to replace the circulator pump was approved.

- House committee reviewed many quotes from contractors concerning the repair of the leak under the Sacristy and recommends that the work is done from the outside with minimal impact.

UPON MOTION: A contract with Wall-Dry Waterproofing Systems for up to \$875.00 to repair the leak was approved.

- Some water had been discovered in the elevator shaft several weeks ago. It is believed that this was the result of a roof repair recently done by Port Huron Roofing during their maintenance repairs. This will be monitored.

- Robert Matouka, a former consultant with NTH Consulting, met with the House Committee to propose a new assessment of the facility. As the last one was done in 2005 and typically these are not done more often than every 7 to 10 years, the committee recommends that it be reconsidered as part of the budget in a year or two.

- The committee is, however, reviewing possible near term maintenance projects (next 5 to 10 years) for future planning and to inform the congregation of needs prior to any potential Capital Campaign program.

- The House Committee has had several quotes from contractors concerning repairs to the choir room and has narrowed this down to two contractors. Awaiting final clarification from one of these bids. The work will consist of installation of new drain tile along three walls using perforated PVC with the work being done from the inside.

UPON MOTION: A contract of up to \$7,500.00 to replace the drain tile was approved. House committee will select the contractor.

Memorials and Furnishings

Nancy Lambert

- Three quotes will be requested for flooring in Room 204, with quotes due in early May.
- It was noted that some ceiling tile will also need to be replaced in Room 204.

The First Presbyterian
Church of Royal Oak
529 Hendrie Blvd.
Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

Address service requested

Worship Services
Sunday mornings at
9 am & 10:30 am

DEADLINE for the SEPTEMBER 2011 Newsletter: AUGUST 15, 2010



Have a safe and lovely summer!

There are still openings for Sunflowers threes and fours classes in the fall, so please tell your friends and family.

Call 248.541.0108 ext. 220.

Ms. Matthews, Mrs. Heitchue, Mrs. Sirr, & Mrs. Cone



A NOTE FROM OUR TROOPS.

*Dear Tillie,
Thank you for sending the package in the mail. It always makes a day go better getting an unexpected delivery. Those of us serving overseas always enjoy knowing that our fellow Americans still remember those of us serving in Iraq.
Warmly,
Major Zach Buether*



SAVE THE DATE!

First Harvest Festival: October 8, 2011

Staff Email List

- Pastor Tom Rice trice@fpcro.org
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- Parish Associate Betsy Rice brice@fpcro.org
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