



# The Presby Gram

Vol. 17 No. 10  
October 2011

First Presbyterian Church of Fairbury

## It takes a lot of years to build a mighty oak!



You've all probably heard the expression "As strong as an oak." Sayings like these often make me ask some very basic questions... like, "How strong is an oak?"

Oak is a very dense and hard wood. It will take longer to cut than the average wood and will take longer to burn as well. Oak trees are often more resilient to nature and can survive for a very long time. One species of oak tree survives for as long as 600 years!

It also takes longer to grow. Growing at the slow rate of two feet per year, it can easily take 15 to 20 years to grow into an adult tree. (Compare that with the fastest growing trees that can grow 10-15 feet in a year and reach full maturity in just 3 years!)

The oak tree has become the standard of strength and reliability. However, it takes time and patience for the great and mighty oak to grow. The same can be said of any good church project, mission, ministry, or outreach. It takes time to develop a lasting and durable ministry that is able to withstand the test and trials of time.

This year, as we begin our stewardship campaign, I ask us all to be reminded of the mighty oak. It is a wonderful symbol for where we have been, where we are, and where we are going.

We will take some time during this stewardship series to remember the mighty ministries that were planted before our time that still support us today. Hopefully, this will give us some perspective on all the things that had to happen in the past to prepare the way for where we are today. Perhaps we can gain some greater appreciation for the work our forefathers did for this ministry.

We will take some time during this stewardship series to examine the mighty ministries that are beginning to blossom in our own time. Hopefully, we can come to a greater appreciation for the things taking root and blossoming every day in our church. Perhaps we can lend more support to these ministries or to those who are nurturing them.

We will take some time during this stewardship series to examine the mighty ministries that will need to be planted to support the generations yet to come. With a keen eye on the future, we will examine where we are planning to go, and ask some important questions like, "What do we want our church to be for our children and for our children's children?"

While contemplating the past, the present, and the future... each of us will need to examine our gifts, our time, and our talents and then ask ourselves, "What am I willing and able to do to make this mighty oak grow?" Together we can grow a ministry that is stronger than the average ministry. Together we can grow a ministry that will last longer, persevere through greater trials, and last for years and years and years into the future. Together, we can nurture a mighty... mighty oak.

God bless, God keep, and God speed,

Pastor Homan



**Come to the Lord's Table**

### COMMUNION . . .

Please join us in the *Sacrament of Holy Communion* Sunday, October 2nd during the worship service. *Home Communion* will be served Tuesday, October 4th.

### PRAYER CONCERNS . . .



Shut-Ins and Nursing Home Residents, those in our church and community with great concerns upon their heart, our nation, our service men and women and their families, Mike & Michelle O'Shea, Becky Brucker,

Beth Gouge, Kay Stevens, Marilyn Dennis, Gina Davis (daughter-in-law of Kay Davis), and Weston (son of Michelle Clemons's cousin).

### DEACONS PREPARING COMMUNION . . .

For Sunday, October 2nd are Todd and Becky Webster.

### COMMUNION SERVERS . . .

For Sunday, October 2nd are Kayl Hoffman, Willa Virkler, Anne Nussbaum and Josh Clemons.



## Worship Assistants

- October 2 - Liturgist - Rob Hobart
- October 9 - Liturgist - Dlorah Zehr
- October 16 - Liturgist - Connie Rich
- October 23 - Liturgist - Sandy Dawson
- October 30 - Liturgist - Kelly Kinate

### LITURGISTS NEEDED!



Worship Committee is still in need of liturgists for 2011! We still need liturgists for the following Sundays:  
November 6th, 13th and 27th.  
December 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th.

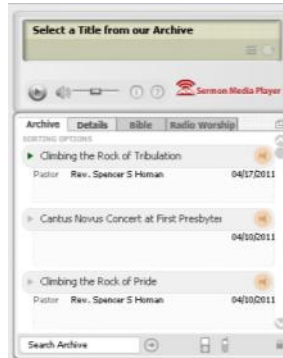
Please help us finish filling in the spots for the rest of the year.

### DEACONS CALLING:



- October 2 Jennifer Stuckey  
Todd Zehr
- October 9 Pat Kafer  
Art Walter
- October 16 Todd Webster  
Becky Webster
- October 23 Rob Hobart  
Liz Hobart
- October 30 Marilyn Dennis  
Joe Small

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR WEBCASTING



Did you know you can listen to our weekly worship services on the web? You can download an MP3 version or listen to our streaming audio by visiting:

[www.firstpresfairbury.org](http://www.firstpresfairbury.org)

and clicking on "Sermons."



### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE . . .

November Newsletter information is needed in the church office on or before Wednesday, October 19th. It is always helpful if articles are turned in before the deadline.

### DEACONS MEETING . . .

The Deacons will meet Wednesday, October 19th at 6:00 p.m.

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS...

2 – Shaylee Clow  
4 – Dave Jeffries  
6 – Bob Wharton  
8 – Kent Casson  
10 – Todd Stevens  
Dale Casson  
13 – Sheree Clow  
14 – Brett Teske  
Anthony Dawson  
15 – Jeanette Franklin  
16 – Hunter Rich  
17 – Art Walter  
19 – Mary Orth  
22 – Corey Peters  
28 – Brad Janssen  
30 – Terry Casson  
31 – Keith Jeffries  
Amber Brining



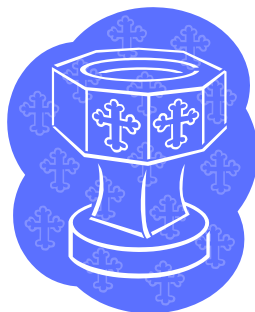
(If we have omitted your birthday,  
please call the church office).

## ANNIVERSARIES . . .

October 4 - Nathan & Kiley Addis  
October 22 - Perry & Alma Augsburg  
October 27 - John & Beverly Enderli  
October 29 - Matthew & Susan Starr  
October 30 - Denny & Linda Weber

## BAPTISM DAY . . .

October 1 - Jay Walter  
October 8 - Amy Enderli  
October 10 - Marlene Janssen  
October 12 - Grant Jones  
October 12 - Morgan Jones  
October 15 - Rachel Hanks  
October 15 - Eddie Ricketts  
October 15 - Anna Ricketts  
October 15 - Grant Ricketts  
October 19 - Ashley Walter  
October 20 - Rob Hobart  
October 24 - Heidi Forestier  
October 25 - Judy Gray  
October 26 - Ella Casson  
October 27 - Pearle Jeffries

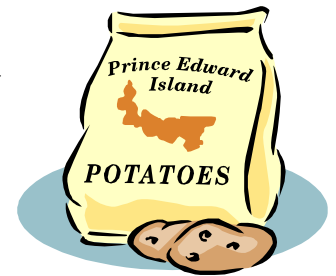


## FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

Sunday, October 16th

The Deacons are designating the third Sunday of every month as Food Pantry Sunday.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in October, the Food Pantry is asking for Hamburger Helper, canned pineapple, canned or boxed potatoes, and peanut butter.



This is a very simple way that we as a congregation can make a very big impact on the lives of several families in the community as we reach out in love and serve in Christ's name. The Deacons thank you for your help with this project.

## BAPTISM

Sunday, October 23rd



Join us on Sunday, October 23rd as we celebrate the baptism of Lydia Rose Clemons, daughter of Josh and Michelle Clemons.

### Our Mission Statement

**We, The First Presbyterian Church of Fairbury, Illinois through**

~ worshiping the God of love,  
~ inviting everyone to experience grace through Christ,  
~ reflecting Christ in our daily lives,

are working with God (the Holy Spirit) to make life improvements happen.

*“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”*  
**(Proverbs 29:18, KJV)**



# PW NEWS

October 2011



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



The Presbyterian Women have a busy calendar! Your support, prayers, and/or participation in these events is encouraged.

- October 23 & 30 – Blanket Sundays
- November 5 – LUNGevity 5K Run/Walk
- November 6 & 13 – Thank Offering Sundays
- November 13, 20, & 27 – Order Jar Mixes
- November 14 – Fall Gathering
- December 6 – PW Friends in Fellowship (assemble jars for distribution)
- December 11 – Distribute jar mixes

## PW COORDINATING TEAM

The purpose of PW which to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study; to support the mission of the church worldwide; to work for justice and peace; and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA), and witnesses to the promise of God’s kingdom. All women (members and friends) of the church are considered a member of the Presbyterian Woman. Do you have a desire to be a part of the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team to assist in coordinating the activities of the PW to fulfill that purpose? If so, please contact Alma Augsburger no later than October 4.

The next meeting of the PWCT is scheduled for October 4 at the home of Alma Augsburger. Alyssa Homan will provide devotions.

### Officers

Sandy Dawson, Moderator (815-692-3658)  
Liz Hobart, Vice Moderator (309-723-6584)  
Anna McKeon, Secretary (309-212-1113)  
Ann Lage, Treasurer (309-723-4043)



### Together in Service Committee

(Mission Opportunities)

Alyssa Homan, Jennifer Stuckey, Michelle Clemons

### Search Committee

Alma Augsburger

### Circle Representative

Lisa Kilgus

## KITCHEN DUTY FOR OCTOBER

Alyssa Homan

On November 5, the Central Illinois LUNGevity 5k Run/Walk will be held at Tipton Park North (2201 Stone Mountain Boulevard in Bloomington). The walk course is friendly to strollers, wheelchairs, and pets (as long as you clean up after them). Bid on the great silent auction items throughout the event. There will also be a raffle! Kids will enjoy the face-painting, nail-painting, and bounce house.

PWCT will host/man the concessions stand at the event in honor of Sharon. The PW will also have a team named "PW and Friends" so please contact Sandy Dawson if you are interested in pledging or how you can support the team. This event will take place rain or shine. Contact Michelle Clemons to learn how you can be a part of this special event!

### FALL GATHERING -- On Monday,

*Fall* November 14, the Presbyterian Women will be holding their fall gathering. A short business meeting and installation of officers will be followed by a presentation from the “Learn and Serve Bus Trip” participants who traveled with other area Presbyterian Women to the Church World Service Kit warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland. Watch for more details in upcoming bulletins.

### BLANKET SUNDAYS

On October 23 and 30, the Presbyterian Women will have a table set up in the narthex for Blanket Sunday. Your \$5.00 contribution purchases a blanket through the Church World Service (CWS) Blanket Program.



The Blanket Program supports a variety of self-help, textile-oriented development projects, and provides blankets for use in disaster situations by purchasing close to disaster sites to speed delivery and to spur local economy.

Will you consider a contribution to provide warmth and comfort to those in need?

*First Annual Community Wide Halloween Event  
at First Presbyterian Church of Fairbury*

# Trunk or TREAT



*Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 5pm - 7pm*

Bouncy house AND slide!



Come in costume...  
Moms & Dads too!

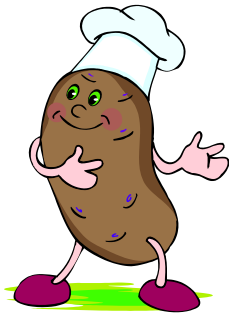
Free Food!  
Free Games and Prizes!  
Free family fun!  
Everyone is welcome!

Decorated car trunks  
filled with goodies!



# Christian Education News

## POTATO BAKE Sunday, October 16th



On Sunday, October 16th, the youth will host a potato bake during Stewardship Sunday. Free will offering with proceeds going toward 2013 Triennium.



Mark your calendar for the following dates:

**October 2:** Children's Moment with Jane Casson

**October 12:** Puppet Practice at 4:00 p.m.

**October 16:** Puppets perform during worship  
Senior High Potato Bake

**October 30:** Children's Moment with Dlorah Zehr  
Junior High to Usher

Adult Sunday School Class greets

**November 6:** Junior High Class greets

## SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

A reminder that first semester Sunday School Offering will be going to Operation Christmas Child.



  
**Join Our Class!**



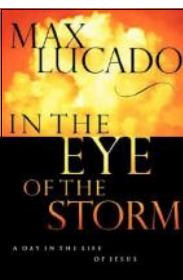
## SHOEBOXES NEEDED

Youth Sunday School is in need of six shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. These shoe boxes are used to package Christmas gifts for the children. The shoe boxes can have a hinged lid

or a loose lid. If you have a shoe box or two we can use, please leave them in the Narthex under the Christin Ed. board. Thanks in advance!

## PUPPET PRACTICE

Puppet practice will be held on October 12th for those in the Junior High Class. We will have a snack, fun, games, and puppet practice for the October 16th. puppet presentation during Worship.



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Sunday School class is studying *In the Eye of Storm* by Max Lucado. See Todd Zehr for a book if you wish to join this class.

## *Wednesday Bible Study*

A small group meets every Wednesday morning in the church fellowship hall to study the bible.

## *John 3:16*

A class aimed at 20-30 somethings will meet on October 13th and 27th at the church manse at 6:30 p.m. This group is studying Romans.

## *Koinonia "κοινωνία"*

A faith, food, and fellowship class aimed at 40-50 somethings will meet on Friday, October 14th at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Perry and Alma Augsburg

## *Sunday Morning Adult Class*

Our Adult Sunday School class meets in the church library every Sunday morning. This class is open to all. They are studying *In the Eye of the Storm* by Max Lucado.

# News from the Committees



## Pastor

- Pastor Homan held 4th Friday Free Flick “Tangled” on August 26th.
- He also held pre-marital counseling and presided over the marriage of Mike Dunn and Michelle Hall September 10th.
- He finished the Learning Tree and coordinated delivery.
- He assisted with the ISU String Project Information Night September 15th and the first Saturday meeting on September 17th.
- He also set up for the “Great Fall Kickoff.”

## Buildings and Grounds

- A new dehumidifier was purchased for the Library.

## Christian Education

- The first day of Sunday School went well with good attendance.
- The Sunday morning Adult Sunday School class started a new book, *In the Eye of the Storm* by Max Lucado.

## Congregational Life

- The committee received an update about the ISU String Project. They will be using our Friendship Room every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Congregational Life Committee discussed hosting a “Trunk or Treat” as an evangelism event.
- During the month of September the committee provided extra greeters on Sundays to be available to assist visitors.

**Deacons** (Did not meet)

## Finance

- It was reported that the house next to the church has already been sold.
- The committee is awaiting challenge budgets for 2012 from the committees. October 2nd is the beginning of the pledge drive, with October 16th being Pledge Sunday.

## Ministry and Administration

- The committee discussed going to a digital newsletter that could be received via e-mail or by viewing it on the website. Those without the means of viewing would still have a copy mailed to them. The committee believes this could lead to a cost reduction in some areas of the budget. Input from the congregation will be taken into consideration.

## Mission and Stewardship

- The committee began planning the stewardship drive. Stewardship Sunday will be October 16th along with a youth potato bake. Bob Nussbaum will chair the pledge drive.
- Giving Tree registrations will start in October with sign-ups in November and December. Pastor Homan is seeking a co-chair to help him organize and administrate all that goes into this ministry this year.

## Nominating

- The committee has begun the process of finding Church Officers for the next term.
- The committee proposed that Session meetings be moved from the 3rd Tuesday of the month to the 4th Tuesday of the month to accommodate potential officers. This would also allow all committees to meet before the Session meeting each month.

## Worship and Sacraments (Did not meet)

Current as of 9/26/2011



## OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER MILE OF DOLLARS

Our mission offering during October and November will go to the Boys and Girls Club of Prairie Central. The Boys and Girls Club of America is over 100 years old, and the Boys and Girls Club of Prairie Central in Fairbury opened more than 14 years ago, adding the Chatsworth and Chenoa clubs as extensions. The Boys and Girls Club runs after school programs that members ages 6 and up can attend every day for a \$25 membership and a small semester fee. The program runs from 3 - 6 p.m. daily in the schools in Chenoa and Chatsworth and at the club in Fairbury.

The Boys and Girls Club of Prairie Central:

- Provides a daily snack and drink to the kids.
- Teaches Boys and Girls Club National programs that help build self-esteem, fight peer pressure, make smart choices and help to reinforce saying no to drugs and alcohol.
- Provides a safe, positive place to go after school and valuable daily homework assistance.
- Serves 40 kids throughout the year in their mentoring partnership with Westview and Upper Elementary.
- Plays host to numerous activities designed for family fun throughout the year. These include bingo, kids carnivals, movie nights, and seasonal parties.

The Club serves many children who do not have the means to afford after school or summer care. Your donation will be used to fund scholarships that are given away every year to students so they can attend a positive, safe place after school.

Mission and Stewardship Interpretation Committee



## STEWARDSHIP POTATO BAKE Sunday, October 16th

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, October 16th (immediately following Worship), the youth will be hosting a Potato Bake fundraiser. A free will offering will get you a baked potato with all the fixings! All proceeds will go to 2013 Triennium. During this time you will be given an opportunity to fill out your stewardship pledge for 2012. Please join us as we dedicate our gifts of time, talents and finances to God.



## NEWSLETTER NEWS

The Ministry and Administration Committee is investigating the possibility of going to a digital newsletter. If approved, the newsletter would be received via e-mail or viewed on the website. Those without the means of viewing it on the internet would still have a copy mailed to them. The committee believes this has the possibility to save a lot on paper and printing costs, as well as being more environmentally friendly. Input from the congregation will be taken into consideration. If you do not have internet access, please let the church office know at 815-692-2963 so we can estimate how many newsletters would need to be mailed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**8 Months Thru August 31, 2011**

	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Pledges	79,261	81,576
Non-Pledged	3,071	4,000
Per Capita	2,386	2,500
Interest on Checking	244	133
Special Reserve Fund Interest	2,141	2,333
Bequest/Memorial Funds	14,905	13,933
Use of Church	115	200
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>102,123</b>	<b>104,676</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>99,796</b>	<b>102,372</b>
<b>Excess (Shortage)</b>	<b>2,327</b>	<b>2,304</b>



**SESSION SUMMARY**

Session took the following action at the September 20th meeting which will affect the life and work of the church.

- Motion approved to change Session Meetings to the 4th Tuesday of the month effective January 1, 2012.



**ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME**

The annual CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, October 16th at 1:30 p.m. All walkers are encouraged to have sponsors for walking. Donations may be given by the mile or a in a lump sum. (The trail is about 3 miles round trip). Last year the churches in our area raised over \$1200. 25% of this money returned to our area food pantries and the rest went to alleviate hunger in other parts of the country and world. This year \$50 will be added to any church's fund if at least 10 people from that church walk.



*Change of Date*

**SESSION MEETINGS ARE MOVING**

Effective January 1, 2012 Session meetings will move from the third to the fourth Tuesday of the month. Session approved this change to help accommodate potential church officers and to allow all committees to meet before the Session meeting each month. Pushing back the Session meeting date will, however, make it difficult for the church office to have the most recent Session minutes and "News From Committees" information in the monthly newsletter. Committee Reports will be due in the church office on the Thursday prior to Session. The newsletter deadline will remain the third Wednesday of the month.



**NEW OFFICE HOURS**

The Church Office hours will be changing over the next few weeks. The new office hours will be:

- 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Mondays
- 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays

The office will be closed from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. each of these days for lunch. These hours will sometimes be subject to last minute change, so it may be best to call the church before stopping in. We will continue to ask for your flexibility over the next few months. Pastor Homan can be reached at **any time** on his cell phone 815-419-7044.



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OCTOBER