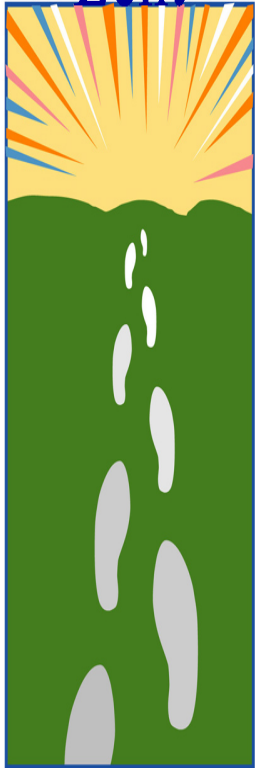




*A Publication of
The Presbyterian Church of La Porte
February 2012*

Quiet Journey, Stepping into Lent



Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22nd with a Devotional Experience called "Quiet Journey, Stepping into Lent."

From 6 to 8 PM. the Worship experience will be set up as a series of devotional stations in which the participant will be directed to write or create something as a way to reflect on what it means to follow Jesus to the cross and the empty tomb.

Participants will receive a guide to direct them through the stations. Worshipers may work through the stations individually or in small groups and may choose which stations one wishes to visit. Ashes will be available at one station for those who wish to have ashes imposed. Communion will be served in the sanctuary as the final station.

The worship committee welcomes everyone to this uniquely meaningful worship experience.



**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF LA PORTE**

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★ The Presbyterian Church Salvation Army Bell Ringers have ★
 ★ earned the honor of being the top group for Christmas 2011 by ★
 ★ bringing in a total of \$1160.34 over 35 hours of bell ringing. We owe ★
 ★ this honor to the Bangs Family, the Belkiewitz Family, the Brugos ★
 ★ Family, Gene Burrows, David Cota, the Dzwonar Family, Dick ★
 ★ Emmons, Bob & Carol Fleisher, Nancy Gettinger, David Hay, the ★
 ★ Henson Family, Jill Kitowski, Carol Koenemann, Kathleen Lang, the ★
 ★ Lee Family, Ross Lawrence, Nancy Nibert, Carl & Karen Schultz, ★
 ★ Larry Sheagley, the Solley-Mead Family, the Thode Family, Steve ★
 ★ Toth, Adi Veenendaal, and our youth. ★



Dear Friends,

We are about to enter the lovely month of February in which we celebrate that great day of love - Valentine's Day. I always try to think of February as the "Love Month" mostly because the other obvious options are so

unpleasant. Let's see... February could be the "cold and snowy" month. It could be the third of the three dark months, where there is little light and tempers are pretty much frazzled out! No, I think February is better as the "Love Month."

It is always appropriate for us to think about the call to love in our lives as Christian people. Jesus said people would know that we are his disciples because we love one another. It was the new commandment that he gave to us, to love one another just as he loved us. That's a pretty high calling, since Jesus loved us so much that he gave up his life for us. Loving anyone that much is a lot of loving! Especially in February, when we may be a little grouchy from too much winter and too little light. It's good to remember that God has loved us with an unendingly patient and all embracing love. God's love gives us the courage and fire to love each other well.

So happy "Love Month." May it be full of sweet cards, chocolate and the love that gives life!

Love,
 Sally

Session Report

The Session met on Tuesday, January 10, in the library. Action items important to the life of the congregation included the following:

1. Heard a report concerning attendance at the Cross Connection Service. Thirty-three new individuals have attended the service. This number does not include folks who have not been attending and are now coming to worship again.
2. Discussed plans for the joint Session/Deacons retreat at Red Mill County Park on Saturday, February 18.
3. Will receive new members on February 5. Rev. Wicks is conducting new member classes.
4. Gave permission for Mission Outreach to hold a Garage Sale April 20-21.
5. Authorized the collection of sewing and craft supplies for Morris Forks Craft project, Jackson, Kentucky.
6. Approved a request to Foundation from the Evangelism Committee for funds to pay for the December, 2012, rental of the billboard sign at US 35 and Johnson Road.
7. Heard from Rev. Wicks that her D. Min. studies are progressing nicely.
8. Reassigned committee/board responsibilities for Session members and discussed ways to improve communication.
9. Rev. Wicks offered tips for running a meeting and writing up committee reports.

10. Upcoming Events:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| January 15 | Installation of officers |
| January 17-18 | Sally working from Grand Rapids |
| January 26 | Annual meeting 6:30 p.m. |
| February 5 | New members received/Communion |
| February 14 | No Session meeting due to retreat |
| February 18 | Session retreat 8:30-3:00 |
| February 19 | Jill Kitowski preaches |
| February 22 | Ash Wednesday/Communion |
| February 28 | Presbytery (Sally is preaching) |
| March 4 | Communion |
| | Edwin Brinklow's Ordination 4:00 p.m. |

**Brittany Belkiewitz to be speaker at February
9th VIPS Meeting**

Come join us for a heart-warming experience through the eyes of our own Brittany Belkiewitz, as she relates the joys of volunteering at the orphanage in La Serena, Chile. She represented Christians and Americans working for the greater good. She had 20 energetic toddlers that she grew to know and love over a three and a half week period.

We will enjoy a light lunch together at 12:00PM. Please sign up in the Narthex on the "Information Station" bulletin board so that we prepare enough food for this special attraction.

30 Hour Famine Lock-in

"The worst drought in 60 years is ravaging a region called the Horn of Africa. Lack of rain is devastating entire communities, withering vast croplands and killing whole herds of livestock." This is affecting food prices and making the most vulnerable, children suffer the pains of hunger."

Ever wonder how you can help? Our youth are participating February 24th thru 25th in the 30 Hour Famine experience. They will be raising funds designated to the "Famine in the Horn of Africa" making every dollar save a child from the devastation of malnutrition and dying from hunger. Your support and commitment to our youth's Overcoming Hunger efforts will help stop this epidemic.

Just one person can help make a huge difference, will it be you? Sign up to support a youth during this incredible faith building experience.



Thursday Nite Live!

The New Year brings a fresh start as our family ministry continues to grow with fun for everyone. Children and youth activities, food and Bible study are planned.

Check out the schedule below!

For Children:

- 5:30-6:00pm - Supper
- 6:00-6:30pm - Children's Music Time with Tammy Jacobi
- 6:30-7:30pm - "Faithweaver Friends" with Melissa Bangs

For Youth:

- 5:30-6:00pm - Supper
- 6:00-6:30pm - Youth games and mixers
- 6:30-7:00pm - "Youth to Youth" Bible study
- 7:00-7:30pm - Youth Worship Jam Session

For Adults:

- 5:30-6:30pm - Supper and coffee hour
- 6:30-7:30pm - Bible study with Pastor Sally, "The Gospel of Mark"

7:30pm Worship Band – Open to all who wish to share their gifts of music!



Youth Schedule

February 12 th	4 to 6PM	Movie Night
February 24-25 th		30 Hour Famine Experience
March 3 rd		Sweet Bread Bake
March 4 th		Shut-in Visits



February Birthdays

- 2/01 Sharon Dzwonar
- 2/03 Diane Monroe
- 2/04 Kristina Galloway
- 2/04 Nancy Lein
- 2/04 Erin Strieter
- 2/04 Brain Strieter
- 2/05 Ross Lawrence
- 2/05 Ralph Herrbach
- 2/06 Dolores Kime
- 2/07 David Osborn
- 2/08 Peg Leszczyszyn
- 2/09 Wesley Nibert
- 2/10 Maxwell Unger
- 2/11 Tammy Jacobi

- 2/11 Elisabeth McKinney
- 2/14 Cathy Stoler
- 2/14 Judi Alcorn
- 2/15 Jill Kitowski
- 2/15 Linda Arney
- 2/17 Charles Mitchell
- 2/18 Carolyn Barr
- 2/18 Alan Lang
- 2/18 Fonda Owens
- 2/19 Nora McKinney
- 2/22 Flo Pieplow
- 2/22 Herb Ramp
- 2/22 Trisha Kirkham
- 2/23 Janet Wooden
- 2/24 Jean Simpson
- 2/24 Jim Travis
- 2/27 Ricci Emmons
- 2/28 Mike Walkowiak
- 2/29 Naureen Bostelman

Susan Taylor
December 25, 2011

Losses in Our Church Family



The animals are gathering in the nursery! Have you seen them? The far wall is teeming with animals gathering two by two to be included on Noah's Arc! Artist Jo Fran Bendix has completed this special mural commissioned by the Christian Education committee. It brings joy and wonder to the children of our congregation and share the story of Noah and the animals. There is a fresh bright coat of paint on the walls to brighten any Sunday morning and a cozy carpet that illustrates unity and peace for all children around the world. Stop in and see for yourself... but please don't feed the animals!

2012 Deacons

<u>Parish #</u>	<u>Name</u>
00	Carol Koenemann
01	Heather Beck
02	Julie Kessler
03	Sharon Dzwonar
04&13	Karen Schultz
05	Carol Fleisher
06	Dolly Schultz
07	Lucille Henson
08	Marilyn Belkiewitz
09,14&15	David Cota
10	Alicia Lee
11&17	Gene Burrows & Jim McEwen
12	Anne Thode
16&18	Phyllis Lay



On March 4, 2012, at 4:00 p.m., in our sanctuary, Edwin Brinklow will be ordained as a teaching elder (terminology replacing Minister of Word and Sacrament in the new *Book of Order*) in the Presbyterian Church (USA). This service of worship is conducted by the Presbytery of Wabash Valley and will be followed by a reception. All are welcome.

Edwin graduated from Western Illinois University in 2005 and received his Master of Divinity degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2010. Since his

return to LaPorte, he has been doing pulpit supply, volunteering in the spiritual care department at LaPorte Hospital, and helping with our youth. He has accepted a call from Community Presbyterian Church in Dakota, Illinois, which is part of Blackhawk Presbytery.



CHURCH LIBRARY
News

Our Church Library has received several donations of children's books. Two especially worthy ones: "David and Goliath-Blind Man's Bluf-True Friends are Color-Blind" and "In Jesse's Shoes-Appreciating Kids with Special Needs". Both can be found with yellow marks on the spine in the children's Young Readers section over the desk (or on the traveling cart in the hallway) Also know that we have a few video cassettes and DVD's in the same area.

For adults, we have "A Life Complete" by Sallirae Henderson. "It is an indispensable guide for those seeking to grow old gracefully, with a sense of meaning and purpose." It is also a good reference for caregivers. It can be found in the Emotional and Spiritual Growth section over the counter with a green mark on the spine and 2He.

Volunteers needed for Youth Service Bureau

School Buddies is a school-based mentoring program. Do you have ONE HOUR a week, during the school day, at a flexible time that works for everyone? See the bulletin board for more information or call 362-9587. Try it – you'll like it.

Can I help?



A NEW MISSION OUTREACH PROJECT

Do you remember the Kentucky Morris Forks Crafts organization? They sell beautiful crafts from Appalachian and we have hosted their sales in the past years. They are now in need of craft supplies for sewing projects. There will be a collection site in the narthex in February.

Items desired: Material – Cotton, Flannel, (NO SYNTHETIC) fabrics. Buttons, Zippers, Bias Tape, Thread, Pins, Needles and any other items that would work for sewing crafts

We thank you in advance for your donations to the crafters at Morris Forks.

DEACONS DESK

"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it."
Michael Jordan



"Promises to Keep"

God makes promises to us and has been making promises to us almost from the beginning of time. We call those promises, Covenants. This Lenten season we will be walking down through our rather checkered history with God. It's checkered, not so much because God has failed to keep his promises, but because we generally don't do well holding up our end of the bargain. Yet God just keeps on keeping promises to us. Amazing! Here's a little of what's coming:

Feb 26	First Sunday of Lent	Gen. 9: 8-17	Covenant with Noah
Mar 4	Second Sunday of Lent	Gen. 17:1-7	Covenant with Abraham
Mar 11	Third Sunday of Lent	Exod. 20: 1-17	Covenant with Moses
Mar 18	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Num. 21: 4-9	Broken Covenant
Mar 25	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Jer. 31: 31-34	The New Covenant

GARAGE SALE*GARAGE SALE*

Mission Outreach will be hosting a Garage Sale in APRIL 20th & 21st. Items CANNOT be brought to the church until APRIL 15th. This is an early announcement so you can start closet cleaning now.

2012 Elders

Elder

Derek Bjonback

Nancy Emmons

team

Nancy Gettinger

David Hay

Hershel Henson

Nancy Link

Bill Mikula

Georgia Mareska

Marcia Morris

Rep.

Larry Sheagley

Carl Schultz

Cristi Vanes

Committees

Evangelism

Nominating
Cross Connection planning

Christian Education
Fine Arts Board Session Rep.

Finance
Foundation

Personnel

Worship & Music

Nominating

Facilities

Mission Outreach
Presbyterian Women Session

Fellowship

Evangelism

Christian Education

A special thanks to all who participated in the mitten tree collection for the Salvation Army this year. We collected 54 hats, 20 gloves and 13 scarves. Helen Canfield

