



*A Publication of
The Presbyterian Church of La Porte
June 2011*

**Rome, Paul and the Underground Church
June 19 thru June 23
6:00 to 8:00 PM**

Can't afford a vacation this year? No worries, travel back in time to this year's Vacation Bible School.



Meet Roman Soldiers, play Olympic games, see a Roman Marketplace teeming with shops and characters from Bible-time Rome. Watch exciting dramas and learn what it was like for the early Christians during this time in the city of Rome. Meet and talk to the disciple Paul as you walk along in his inspiring faith journey. These experiences will make God's word come alive. Be sure to share your faith and invite your family, neighbors and friends!



**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF LA PORTE**

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THIRTEENTH BIENNIAL JURIED ART EXHIBITION WINNERS

At the opening reception on Sunday, May 22, awards were presented to the winning artists of the 13th Biennial Juried Art Exhibition. Winning Best of Show was “Potawatomi Wildlife Park”, an infrared hand-colored photograph by Ron Suver of Mishawaka, IN. Other award winners were: 1st Place Award: “Studio

Model”, a mixed media work by Bruce Seidelman of La Porte, IN.; 2nd Place Award: “House on Madison Road”, a watercolor by Jim Colanese of Lakeville, IN.; 3rd Place Award: “I Beat Myself Up”, an oil by Tiffany Gilbert of Kingsbury, IN. (entering for the first time); Honorable Mention: “Sewn Segments”, a mixed media on paper by Karen Marken of La Porte, IN.; Honorable Mention: “Hide 'n Seek”, a silver gelatin print by Wendi Replogle of Nappanee, IN. (This was her first time to enter our show, or any show!) The winner of the Purchase Award: “Through a Child's Eyes”, an oil on canvas by Dana Dabagia of Michiana Shores, IN. will be added to the church’s permanent collection. (This was the first time to enter our show, and she almost turned back due to foggy weather!) Purchase Award Honorable Mention: “This Little Light”, a photograph by our own Glen Richardson.

This year there were 50 artists who submitted 92 entries; and 62 pieces were accepted by the judge for the show. There were artists from Beverly Shores, Chesterton, Highland, Hobart, Kingsbury, La Porte, Michigan City, Michiana Shores, Portage, Valparaiso, Wheatfield, Gary, Bristol, Lakeville, Mishawaka, Nappanee, Walkerton, South Bend, Fort Wayne, Rensselaer, and Cassopolis, Michigan. More than ten artists entered our Juried Exhibition for the first time.

The juror was Merrill Kraybill, Professor of Art and Chair of the Art Department at Goshen College. He issued the following statement about the show:

“There is a range of artists represented in this show: from people who seem to find joy in the process of creation, to those who use art to give form to their understandings of the experience of life, to those who desire is to bring pleasure to others. Artists are mixtures of each of these.

It was a pleasure to spend time with the art that is in this exhibition. Taking time to consider each of the pieces pays off in a rich experience that is missed if you walk by too quickly. I am grateful to the artists who sent in work. I wish I could have included more of the submissions in the final show.

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Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

It isn't very often Presbyterians make the national news. But over the years I have noticed that anything having to do with sexuality gets the attention of the press. As long as I have been a part of the Presbyterian Church (USA) we have had a tug of war over how to think about those among us who are gay or lesbian. There has never been any question in most cases as to whether all people, regardless of sexual orientation, are welcome in church. God loves everyone. But there has been great debate in the denomination over whether or not people who are homosexual may be ordained into leadership positions in the church.

There has, of course, been ebb and flow over the years. Sometimes those opposed to ordination of those who are gay or lesbian have had the upper hand and sometimes those who support full inclusion have had momentum. With the passage of “Amendment B” during the 90's, the church barred the ordination of homosexual persons. During May of this year, the required number of Presbyteries have voted on an amendment to the Book of Order which will, for the first time, officially give churches and Presbyteries the option to proceed with the ordination of a gay or lesbian person in their midst to either be an Elder, Deacon or Minister of the Word *should they so choose*. The change is from prohibition to possibility rather than from prohibition to mandate.

Changes in the *Book of Order* must be proposed by a motion to the General Assembly, pass muster with a constitutional committee, receive a favorable vote in committee at General Assembly and then be confirmed on the floor of General Assembly. The amendment is then forwarded to the Presbyteries throughout the United States for an up or down. A majority of Presbyteries must approve any change. Most of the changes in the Book of Order are painfully uninteresting. This change is very important to a lot of people.

The approved wording for ordination standards is as follows:

“Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G14.0240) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.”

(continue on page 10)



| | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|-------------------|
| 6/01 | Kay Swanson | 6/14 | Jennifer McKinney |
| 6/01 | William Alexander | 6/15 | Dick Sims |
| 6/03 | Mary Ann Worthington | 6/17 | Miles Browder |
| 6/03 | John Brugos | 6/18 | Bev Younce |
| 6/03 | Natalie Cygan | 6/18 | Nancy Meyers |
| 6/04 | Thomas Beck | 6/18 | Cristi Vanes |
| 6/05 | Brady Vanes | 6/19 | Johnna Belkiewitz |
| 6/07 | Helen Cutler | 6/20 | Chris Wooden |
| 6/10 | Michael Lee | 6/21 | Zach Vanes |
| 6/12 | Gary Alexander | 6/21 | Ben Owens |
| 6/12 | Sophie Bissonette | 6/22 | Renee Graf |
| 6/13 | Charlotte Jones | 6/22 | Jamie Vowell |
| 6/13 | Dan Lewis | 6/24 | Kathleen Lang |
| 6/13 | Georgia Mareska | 6/25 | Rebecca Johnson |
| 6/14 | Terry Jo Forsgard | 6/26 | Sarah Beck |
| 6/14 | Dorothy Fry | 6/28 | Phyllis Lay |
| | | 6/28 | Carrie Bjonback |
| | | 6/28 | Ashlyn Bowen |
| | | 6/29 | Nancy Brinklow |

Children's Church News!

Starting May 29 we have begun a summer series for the children during Children's Church where a book from our library has been selected and will be read aloud to the children each week. Fun and thoughtful questions will be discussed about each story and a craft to give children a hands-on learning experience! If you would like to volunteer for Children's Church, please let the office know!

Youth News June/July 2011:

June 8
9am -4pm
Deep River Water Park Field Trip

June 19 – 23
6 to 8pm
Vacation Bible School

June 26
Mission Trip Team Building Lunch

July 10
Mission Trip Team Building Lunch

July 17 – 22
Mission Trip to Camp Courageous

We are grateful beyond words for the kindnesses of our church family during the time of our bereavement. Cards, flowers, food, prayers, memorial gifts, all these things have supported us in these past weeks. Your thoughtfulness will never be forgotten.

The Family of Al Brinklow



Trip 2011

Camp Courageous Mission Trip 2011

This year, the youth are traveling to Camp Courageous of Iowa July 17 thru 22 where they will be working to maintain the facilities and join the counseling staff during the evening at campfire time. Working during the day we will also be hosting bible study in the afternoon and offering a worship at the conclusion of our stay. Camp Courageous is a year-round respite care and recreational facility for people with disabilities. Campers of all ages and abilities are given the opportunity for social and personal growth within a supportive environment.

Camp Courageous' motto is "...because we're more alike than we are different." It will inspire our youth and adult volunteers to serve and learn about the disabled community. Please pray for our students and volunteers as they take this journey in faith!



Returning to La Porte for the opening the 2011 season of recitals this summer on The Children's Carillon will be Gijsbert Kok of The Netherlands. He was born in 1963 in Waarder, The Netherlands and studied organ, church music, improvisation and theory of music at the conservatories of The Hague, Tilburg and Rotterdam. He studied the carillon with Mr. Bernard Winsemius at the Dutch Carillon School in Amersfoort, where he graduated in 1994.

He is carillonneur of the cities of Weesp (Hemony - bells from 1671), Voorschoten and Zoetermeer and organist of the Domkerk in De Lier and the American Protestant Church in The Hague. Currently he teaches carillon and improvisation at the Dutch Carillon School in Amersfoort and music theory at the Masters Department of the conservatory in Rotterdam. He performs on organ as well as carillon and his concert schedule can be found on www.gijsbertkok.nl

So mark your calendars for 4:00 p.m. Sunday, June 27 and plan to bring your blankets, lawn chairs, etc. for this special recital. Other concerts in the series will be July 17 and August 28.

**Circle of Friendship
June 4
2:00 to 4:00 PM**

This month's program is "Mum's The Word", presented by Mr. Keith Kuric and kids.

This will be a very entertaining, fun gathering for all physically challenged adults in our community.

A Special Visitation

The congregation is invited to attend a special meet and greet with Mark Marshall on Saturday, June 11th at 11:00 AM. Many of you will remember Mark and Jean Marshall have been members of this congregation from childhood. Mark was the son of the Rev. Mark Marshall and Jean was Jean Martin and raised in this congregation. Sadly, the Marshalls sold their house and left LaPorte to go live near their daughter last spring. Jean failed quickly and died last December 19. Her memorial service was held in Indianapolis. Mark and his family will be coming to LaPorte on the 11th of June to have Jean's ashes interred in our columbarium. After the private committal the deacons are giving a small reception for Mark so he can greet old friends. If you knew Mark or Jean at all, it would be a gift to come by and wish Mark well. This church has been extraordinarily important to both of them over the years and Mark misses his home.

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE NARTHEX?

Since we had the new roof installed over the narthex last fall, we have been waiting to make sure the ever-present, never-ending leak has been fixed. When everything seemed good this spring, we had the wall repaired and 3 of our members, Jack Beck, Steve Curry and Carl Schultz, painted it. Take a moment and see how nice it looks and how bright it is. What a change!

Come share in God's Spirit as we celebrate Pentecost on June 12th! Our sanctuary will be ablaze with red as we decorate with bright red geraniums. We invite you to find your best red dress or jacket/tie and join in the fun!



Pentecost is a wonderfully hopeful day as we remember God's spirit came with power to the disciples 50 days after Easter. They took to the streets with enthusiasm and courage to tell of God's great work in Jesus Christ. Amazingly they were met with joy and belief. 3000 joined the church that day. Pentecost was the birthday of the church.

Be sure to join us to celebrate the church's birthday and to sense the wind of God's spirit blowing on us anew. He moves us still!

How's the Second Service coming?

Glad you asked! In March, the Session formed a committee to research and implement a second worship service for our congregation to try to reach out to younger people in our community. The group has been hard at work meeting every other Tuesday to accomplish all that needs to be done for a November start.

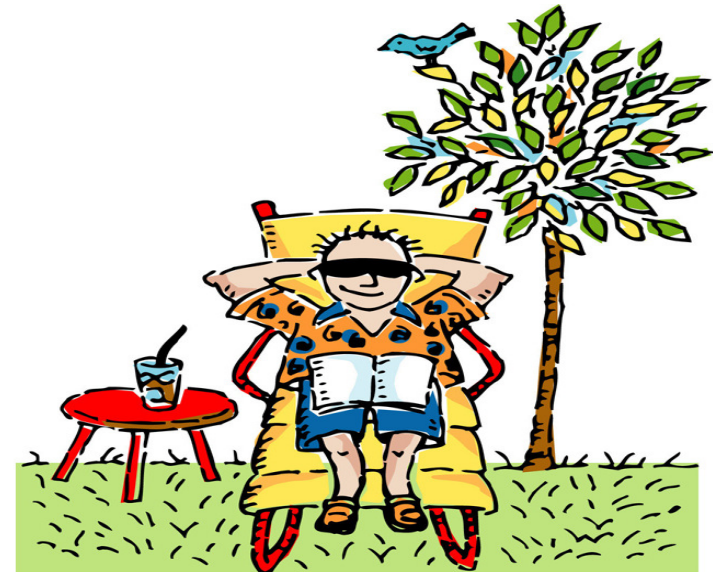
The first task of the group was to identify in general terms the target population to which we wish to reach. Church growth specialist, Charles Arn, advises not reaching past one generation to attempt to reach a younger group. So the committee has decided to focus attention on what is called Generation X, people roughly in their 30s and 40s. These are often people with children and youth, so meeting the need of young people will be part of the focus of this new worship service. It is interesting to note that according to the most recent statistics this is the largest age group represented in the city of LaPorte, with children 18 years and under representing one quarter of the population!

The Second Service Group is now in the midst of doing research. They are trying to learn everything they can about Generation X. In June and July, they will be visiting thriving congregations who have contemporary and alternative worship services targeted at younger generations to learn and stretch our imaginations. They will also be conducting focus groups with 1) our own youth (middle school and high school) 2) our own 30 and 40 year olds and 3) Gen Xers who do not have a church home. It is hoped that some careful questions will help us glean information about attitudes toward church, preferences for worship atmosphere and spiritual or other needs that might be addressed by a new worship experience.

What can you do to help? First, please pray for this effort. It is important that we hear God's voice and follow God's leading in this important work. Secondly, if you are someone in our congregation between the age of 30 and 50 we hope you'll join us for the "in house" focus group. Additionally if you have a middle schooler or high school student, please encourage them to come to the youth focus group. Finally, if you know someone in this age group who does not have a church home, we'd like to invite them to the "eternal" focus group. If you would share this person's name or address with the church office, we'll get them an invitation! Thanks!

MEET OUR NEW CUSTODIAN

With the recent departure of Scott and Jen Shaffer as our custodial staff, we needed to find a new person for that position. The Personnel Committee worked very hard and reviewed over 20 applications before offering the position to Jim Hoffmann. You can't miss Jim if you see him around the church. He doesn't need ladders for most areas and usually has a smile on his face. His work experience has been in different areas but already we see how lucky we are to have him. Jim really knows the meaning of clean. He has already reorganized the janitor's closet on the main floor and the boiler room, besides keeping up with everything else. When you see him, please welcome him and let him know how happy you are to have him with us. He is a great asset to our church.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

