



A Publication of
The Presbyterian Church of La Porte

October 2011



Thursday Nite Live Starts October 13th!



Looking for something to do during the week with your family, friends and neighbors? Here's an opportunity to share your faith! Join us for our family friendly Thursday Nite Live events! All ages are welcome, and open registration is encouraged anytime. Free staffed nursery on site.

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Consecration Sunday October 23rd

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a Biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

This year our congregation's finance committee has again selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the Biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship.

(continue on next page)



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LA PORTE

307 Kingsbury Avenue
La Porte, IN 46350
219-362-6219

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(continued from front page) - Consecration Sunday

New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's ministry and mission work in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader, Rev. Mike Wicks, will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Session members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Session

<i>Hershel Hanson</i>	<i>Cristi Unes</i>
<i>Nancy Link</i>	<i>Nancy Gettner</i>
<i>Quel Emmons</i>	<i>Georgia Maranda</i>
<i>Nancy Sharice</i>	<i>Dick Bjorbeck</i>
<i>Carl Schutt</i>	<i>Dorothy</i>

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



On October 2, 2011 we will be celebrating World Communion Sunday (formerly called "World Wide Communion Sunday)." In 1936 the Presbyterian Church (USA) leaders had the vision to embark on a mission to ensure that the Presbyterian Churches in the United States and abroad would celebrate Holy Communion on a specific day, now

celebrated annually on the first Sunday in October.

Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg, PA, is the church where the idea originated, an idea influenced by the tone of the times, the Great Depression and World War II. Dr. Hugh Thomas Kerr, pastor of Shadyside, conceived of the idea of having communion celebrated on the same Sunday by all Presbyterian Churches and he envisioned that those from other denominations would also join in this act of worship. The idea of World Communion Sunday spread slowly at first, but began to take hold in 1940 when the idea was supported by the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches, which later became the National Council of Churches USA.

In 2011 we will join with Christians in every culture when we partake of the bread and the cup on October 2nd. We will celebrate using breads made in various countries as we also symbolize worldwide unity. Holy Communion this year will enable us to join with Christians everywhere to affirm that Christ is Head of the Church. We join with all members of the Christian Community who also partake of Holy Communion as we also affirm that The Church is One in the Spirit and One in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Nancy Link for the Worship and Music Committee

Why are we here? Why are investing our time, talents, energy and efforts into Sunday School, Children's Church and Youth Activities. All good questions.

For me, the reason we do what we do boils down to three basic reasons.

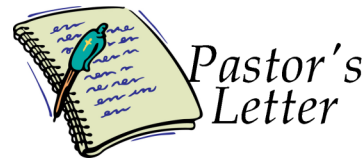
Number one...God calls us to teach our children. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (Deuteronomy 6:7) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.(2 Timothy 3:14-15)



Number two...Christian Education is vital to the health of our church. We have big plans to grow our congregation, to reach out to our members, to touch the currently unchurched and to appeal to a younger generations of folks who will carry on and sustain the church. Part of that growth depends on the availability of a warm welcoming and embracing environment in which these young families can entrust us with their kids, so that they too can learn from us and from each other. Christian Education is a critical piece of this project.

Finally...we owe this endeavor not only to our children, to our church, but to our community. Every day I see children who are disenfranchised and marginalized. It is very easy for me to develop a somewhat skewed view of the world. But, I have hope that our efforts here will pay off. That by keeping the faith, by planting the seeds, we will have a great harvest and produce a new crop to carry on. Your commitment of Christian education is an investment. If we follow God's commandments, welcome the children, surround them in Christian love and teach them, we will surely leave a legacy that will endure and make this a better place.

Nancy Gettinger



Dear Friends,

I am so impressed with this church. Lots of congregations, when faced with the declining numbers of young people and young families, choose to turn away and blame the younger generation for not choosing church. Lots of congregations, when asked to consider changing "the way we've always done it before" dig in their heels and refuse to budge. Lots of congregations, in our day of shifting cultural values, choose to close their eyes and ignore the call of the gospel to reach outside itself. That's not this congregation!

This congregation is open - not just to all kinds of people, but to different needs and different ways of touching God.

This congregation is courageous - willing to take risks, thinking outside the box and following where we believe God is leading, even when it is a terrific challenge!

This congregation is faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ. People here seem to really understand that God's love is for us, but that it is so precious it must be given away.

This congregation is awesome in my humble opinion. I am honored to be your pastor. No matter what happens as we move into the days ahead and try to rebuild this church in new and different ways, I am so proud to work among such dedicated, imaginative and courageous people. Thank you for your faithfulness. You inspired me.

Sally



Many thanks for all of the cards, hugs and words of support in the passing of our mom. You truly are a great church family!

The Family of Ann Rainier



* THIS MONTH'S *
birthdays

10/01 Barbara Herrold	10/14 David Hay
10/01 Judy Brown Richardson	10/14 Stephanie Dadlow
10/02 Catherine Theis	10/15 Dorothy Harrer
10/03 Sandi Keller	10/16 Virginia Chalik
10/03 Michelle Montana	10/16 Terry Wicks
10/04 Jerry Johnson	10/17 Charlie Boston
10/05 Victor Hlavsa	10/19 LaVon Hines
10/05 Jim Friend	10/20 Meredith Morris
10/06 Don Clayton	10/21 Ann Hlavsa
10/06 Carol Fleisher	10/21 Teri Strieter
10/06 Denise Johnson	10/22 Roger Holaway
10/07 Rachel Arney	10/27 Ian Garrison
10/08 Allene Welkie	10/28 James Vanes
10/09 Elizabeth Hay	10/28 Eric Hartzell
10/09 Johnny Link	10/28 Tyler Bowen
10/10 Nancy Gettinger	10/29 Ken Coe
10/12 Erik Eigenmann	10/29 Tom Severs
10/13 Maggie Naas	10/30 Steve Monroe
10/14 Devetta Walkowiak	10/31 Rachel Osborn



The House of Boo is under construction just waiting to offer “tricks and treats” to the children of our church and surrounding community! Oct. 30th following worship join us for silly fun as you tour this year’s House of Boo! Meet characters and enjoy delightful scenes guaranteed to make you shiver and shake...with giggles!

Parents, this is a wonderful and safe way to celebrate Halloween! Bring friends and family to enjoy this great children’s event! Happy Haunting!

Can I Help with the New Service?

Yes, Yes, Yes! Of Course you can help! Here are some specific positions we still need help with:

Sound technicians! We need people to run the sound board in both services. It's not that hard. We'll teach you. Tell Jill Kitowski you'll help.

Back up Projection technician. Dick Emmons has graciously offered to create our slide shows for Cross Connection. We are still looking for a back up a person to run the show in his absence. Tell Dick Emmons you'll help.

Greeters/runners: We are gathering just a few greeters for the new service who will be regular greeters - every Sunday. Yes, we do have a few volunteers for this. We also need runners - people to show the way to the nursery, direct mom or dad to the Children's Church room, help locate the bathroom, etc. Want to help? Talk to Carl Schultz.

Actors: Willing to help with a drama? Talk to Tammy Jacobi.

Singers/ musicians:
 Want to join the band.
 Talk to Pastor Sally.



(continue from page 6) - Youth Mission Trip

At the third station that our youth participated in, the campers had to go into a field and find the magic egg! The catch was they had to keep from being attacked from monsters, (Emma MacSwiney, Emily Osborn, Adrianna LeDonne, and Brittany and Johnna Belkiewitz,) who were all dressed in costumes! If the camper was successful, he or she got to take a trip down a water slide that was awaiting them on the other side of the field that was manned by Tammy Jacobi.

YES! The rumors are true. After the campers were gone, our kids took turns going down the water slide. They say, everyone is a kid at heart, and that was no exception for Tammy and me. I asked my aide, Jorie, to put me on top of the slide, and Tammy agreed to go down with me. Away we went! It was a bit slow going down but with pushes, smiles of encouragement, and lots of laughter, from the rest of our group, we made it to the bottom in one piece. IT WAS AWESOME!!

These are just a few of the exciting things we did on our trip that will stay with me and all of us forever. Thank you Tammy, and all of the youth group for inviting me to join you. It truly was an "Amazing Grace". Thanks be to God!

Submitted by:
Tom Severs



Time for that fall cleaning! Dig in those closets, drawers, basements, garages, and any other storage place and take your no longer wanted "treasures" to the church for the Presbyterian Women's Treasure Sale. All donations welcome!

The sale will be Friday, October 7, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, October 8, from 8:00 a.m. - noon. You can start dropping off donations at the church on Monday, October 3. Looking forward to tons of good, CLEAN, items!

(continue from page 1)

Here's what's happening on Thursday Nites:

Children:

5:30 -6:00 PM	Supper
6:00 - 6:30 PM	"Faith Weaver Friends" with Melissa Bangs
6:30 - 7:00 PM	Music Time For Children with Tammy Jacobi
7:00 - 7:30 PM	Crafts with Melissa Bangs

For Youth:

5:30- 6:00 PM	Supper
6:00-6:30 PM	"Youth to Youth" Bible Study
6:30-7:00 PM	Recreation/Games
7:00-7:30 PM	Homework Huddle

For Adults:

5:30-6:30 PM	Supper
6:30 – 7:30 PM	Bible Study with Pastor Sally
6:45 – 7:30 PM	"Healthy Lifestyle Choices" with Elizabeth Bowen (this class starts Oct. 20 th)

Worship Band

7:30 PM	Open to all who wish to share their gifts of music!
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The program for the Circle of Friendship on Saturday, October 1st will be from "Reins of Life". "Reins of Life" is a program which offers horseback riding therapy for persons with disabilities. The gathering will be, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM, including refreshments and social time.



2011 Youth Mission Trip Camp Courageous of Iowa, Harry Potter Style!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to walk right into a Harry Potter movie? That is what our youth did this past July when we went to Camp Courageous, a camp for children and adults with disabilities in Monticello, Iowa!

It was a great trip, one that I will remember forever! I have been to several camps for disabled persons, but this camp was the most beautiful camp I have ever seen. Everything was very well kept and clean with gorgeous modern air conditioned buildings, and nice clean sidewalks for wheelchairs, walkers and crutches to get around with ease.

During the day, our kids helped the maintenance man with several jobs around the camp. They put mulch down on a path in the woods so campers could access the trail more safely. In the evening, our kids helped the camp staff with the activity of the night. The theme for that week's session was Harry Potter, because a new Harry Potter movie just opened in theaters. Keeping with the theme one night, the campers went from station to station where they could experience for themselves flying brooms, magic wands, and running through scary characters to get to the other side.

Our kids participated in three stations. Megan Nibert and Callie Scissom help load campers on a Hogwarts Express hay ride! Another station was the magic wand station where every camper took turns waving a magic wand at a wizard (Spenser Shaffer, Terry Wicks, and Kayla Brown,) who was suspended from the ceiling with a pulley! When a camper waved the wand several times, sound effects went off, thanks to David Hay, and the wizard "flew" in mid-air and landed on a very thick cushioned mat behind them.

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The first program in the Fine Arts 2011-2012 Season will be on Sunday, October 23, with a concert by the Konevets Quartet. Many of you may remember how great they were when they performed here a few years ago.

The Konevets Quartet was founded in 1992 by four young musicians from the St. Petersburg Conservatoire who were singing in the choir of the Konevets Monastery of the Holy Nativity on the island of Konevets in Lake Ladoga. Their first audiences were the people working on the restoration of the monastery, and the pilgrims and tourists who came to the island.

All of the members of the ensemble studied at the St. Petersburg Glinka Choir College in the tradition of Russian song. At the heart of their repertoire is Russian church music, from ancient material written for the monasteries, to works by 20th century composers. The earliest church music is sung in unison or in arrangement for two or three voices, and in contemporary four-voice arrangements, many of them written by members of the quartet. Their program also features a variety of Russian folk songs and military songs and marches from the days of the Imperial Army — songs which were all but lost during Soviet times. The repertoire also draws on settings of Russian poems arranged for male voice choirs by Russian classical composers.

The Konevets Quartet has participated in leading international festivals in Russia, Great Britain, USA, France, Italy, Ireland and Scandinavia. Their recordings have received high acclaim from critics and the music press. A concert by the Konevets Quartet always offers a fascinating program, and the chance to learn more of the rich tradition of Russian choral music and the music of the male voice chamber choir.

Be sure to save the date, Sunday, October 23 at 4:00 p.m. CDT for this special concert. Childcare will be provided and there will be a free-will offering. The reception after the concert will offer the opportunity to meet the members of the Konevets Quartet. For more information contact the church at 362-6219 or access the church's web site at www.yourhomechurch.org.

The Session met on Tuesday, September 13, in the library. Action items important to the life of the congregation included the following:

1. Approved a budget for startup/one time costs for the second service, including painting of the sanctuary.
2. Agreed that the banners in the sanctuary be removed for evaluation and preservation as needed.
3. Approved the solicitation of a commitment from fifty church members to volunteer to attend the new service for November, December, and January, and if possible to attend both services during that time.
4. Received the announcement that the new service will be called "Cross Connection."
5. Approved the job description for Worship Band Leader (part-time). Most of the funds for this position would come from the salary of the children's choir director, whose position has been eliminated, and the difference in salary between the former and current organist.
6. Decided to explore an alternative method of taking attendance without using the "red books" for the traditional service.
7. Approved the appointment of Suki Cho and Suzanne Osborn to the Fine Arts Board.
8. Approved a project to help the La Porte "M.O.M.S." care group which sends packages to soldiers serving overseas. Specific items and monetary gifts will be collected, and the children will make Christmas cards.
9. Were reminded about the CROP Walk on October 2.
10. Rev. Wicks will be on vacation October 3-9.
11. Upcoming Events:

September 18	Congregational meeting
September 21	Newsletter articles due
September 27	All committee night
September 28	Budget requests due
October 2	World Communion and CROP Walk
October 11	Session
November 6	Second Service begins

Get a jump on making healthier choices and start **before** the Holiday Season this year, by attending the latest class offered during Thursday Nite Live.

Healthy Lifestyle Choices



Join Elizabeth Bowen as she leads a sampler class of healthy options for all ages. Each week a different movement and exercise option will be explored during this 9 week session. Bring your tennis shoes, wear comfortable clothes that allow for easy flow of movement, and attend this exciting class starting October 20th at 6:45 pm to 7:30pm.

Oct. 20th – "Your Home Workout Plan" - get the most out of your workout without going to a gym! Learn how to make E-Z lifestyle changes.

Oct. 27th – "Silver Sneakers Class" - where you explore functional low impact movement especially geared towards 55 plus crowd.

Nov. 3rd – "Silver Sneakers Class" - follow up.

Nov. 10th – "Kickboxing" - high energy and high octane workout!

Nov. 17th – "Kickboxing" - high energy and high octane workout!

Nov. 24th – Thanksgiving (hold the stuffing!) No Classes

Dec. 1st – Virtual Exercise – Wii Fitness

Dec. 8th – Virtual Exercise – Wii Fitness

Dec. 15th – Virtual Exercise – Wii Fitness Final Sampler Class

A New Service brings a New Look

There are lots of changes coming in the month of October in preparation for "Cross Connection", the new contemporary worship service starting **November 13th**. Some of these changes bring some wonderful updating to our surroundings and equipment. Here are some of the things to which you can look forward:

A new sound system! Because the new worship service will be led by the Worship Band, there is a significant need to upgrade the sound system. This will include a new mixing board and amplifier to allow for the amplification of guitars and singers. We have long needed to relocate the control board to allow the sound controller to be in the sanctuary while adjusting sound. It will be relocated in the back right corner of the sanctuary. We also will be installing a new assistive listening system for people who are hard of hearing and a new audio recorder to allow us to pod cast and burn CDs to take to shut ins.

Along with the new sound system will come a new synthesizer primarily for use with the band, but which also may provide nice variety of sound for traditional worship, particularly when an obbligato instrument is needed to accompany a choir anthem. Our new synthesizer will make a variety of instruments available at the touch of a keyboard. (The piano will be relocated near the choir loft.)

A new projection system will be installed to allow for visuals, slides, and videos to be used in the new worship service. It will also be a lovely addition to traditional worship for those times we wish to show slides of a mission trip or of our children at Bible School. The screen will be located on the front wall of the sanctuary above the baptismal font, to provide the best visibility to everyone in the sanctuary. The screen will be retractable and operated by remote control.

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(continue from page 8) - A New Service

It is not yet determined if we will build a box around the screen to "hide" it for traditional worship. We're waiting to see what it looks like. The projector itself is small and will extend from a small pipe attached to the ceiling. It's unlikely worshipers will even notice it. The projection system will be operated by computer on the back right near the sound board.

Because of the necessary location of the screen, the Session made the difficult decision to take down the banners that have bedecked the sanctuary for 30 plus years. The banners will be accessed by a textile expert to see if they may be cleaned and stored. It is hoped that in the near future we may have funds to create new seasonal banners that would provide variety to the seasons of the church.

New paint is coming! As the banners are brought down we anticipate some funny colored walls up front. The sanctuary is scheduled to receive a fresh coat of paint in October! Hurray!

The last change that is coming in our sanctuary involves the red Worshipper Registration books, or "Friendship Pads" as some call them. The second service committee has requested that we not use these in the new Cross Connection Service. In response the Worship and Music committee, along with the Evangelism committee suggested they be removed altogether. The Session agreed, and a new plan is being implemented to gather visitor information from first time visitors. Watch for "Guest Cards" appearing soon in the pew pockets.

One more wonderful change involves the construction of a new Coffee Kiosk for our congregation. Coffee and goodies will soon be available at a "self serve" coffee station just across from the church office where the long bench has been located. New cupboards and countertop are being installed along with electricity to brew the coffee.

Thank you to the many people who have donated time, energy, creativity and money to make all of this happen. There is much to rejoice in as God is making us new: inside and out!

Will new people come? That's largely up to you.

The surveys about why people attend church for the first time still indicate that 75% of all visitors come because someone invited them. On November 13th we will be launching Cross Connection, a new worship service that is contemporary in nature. It will be multi sensorial, energetic, media driven, with a large variety of upbeat music. We will advertize in some rather unusual ways for this service. Look for our billboard on Pine Lake Avenue. Those of you who do Facebook will likely see our ad there. We will also have an ad on "What's New La Porte, flyers about town and an article in the paper. None of this, however, beats extending a personal invitation to a friend or neighbor.

A new worship service is one of the single best ways for an established church to reach out to new people. It can be threatening to walk into an established church, and an established worship service where everyone knows what to do except you! When you walk into a new church or a new worship service, the playing field is leveled. Everyone is new together, even the members of the church. No one really knows what to do or what will happen. So everyone gets to fumble and to grow together. The start of the new service is the perfect time to invite a new friend, or an old friend who has drifted away from the church. Why not offer to pick them up or meet them at the church. Mention that this new and you have no idea quite what will happen either. You can "try it out" together.

If everyone in our church invited one friend each to church... WOW! We'd be packed! Get your courage up. Invite a friend to church on November 13th!



Gifts for
those in the
Military

MISSION OUTREACH CHRISTMAS PROJECT

We are asking for donations to send to soldiers serving overseas. The Mothers of Military Soldiers (M.O.M.S.) in La Porte along with other volunteers packages care boxes for the soldiers. Our church family can participate in October and November by bringing articles listed below to the church. Please be as generous as possible, so those protecting us will have a brighter holiday.

NO GLASS OR AEROSOL CONTAINERS!

Shampoo , Conditioner, Deodorant, Shaving gel, Sunscreen, Lip Balm, Razors, Foot Powder, Liquid Soap, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Individual drink packets, Tuna Fish Packets, Chicken Packets, Dried Fruit, Hard Candy, Gum, Beef Jerky , small Word Search and Puzzle Books.

We thank you, in advance, for your dedicated support.

Come One!! Come All!!

On November 13th (yes the date changed) we will be kicking off our exciting new second service, Cross Connection.

To help grow our Cross Connection service, Session and the Second Service Committee are asking for at least 50 individuals...the more the merrier, to commit to attending this new service for three months. Your continued attendance at our more traditional church service also would be much appreciated.

To register, please add your name to the sign-up sheet outside the sanctuary.

On behalf of Session and the Second Service Committee, thank you in advance for your support of this wonderful new exciting chapter in the Presbyterian Church of La Porte.

