



A Publication of  
The Presbyterian Church of La Porte

September 2011

### Sunday School



We explore the wonder and majesty of our beautiful earth and all of God's creation with this year's theme of "God is Green". This will be a special day of celebration starting at 10:00 A.M! Teacher commissioning will take place during worship where you will meet your new teaching teams for the 2011-2012 year.

## KICKOFF September 11th

All classes will meet for a morning of "getting to know each other". Our teachers will be talking about our "God is Green" theme and introducing our service centered curriculum for this fall. Join us for learning how God calls us to be good stewards of our natural resources and to serve each other.

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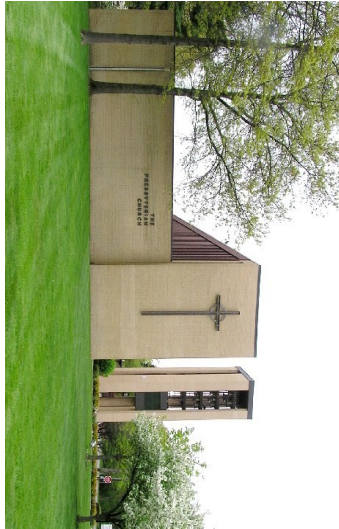


### New Worship Schedule

### Worship Time Change begins September 11th

In anticipation of the Second Service beginning November 6th, we will be changing the Sunday morning schedule on "Kick Off" Sunday, September 11th. Changing the schedule now will allow us to get used to the new times before adding the new service on November 6th. So here's the new schedule as of September 11th:

- 10:00 AM      Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 AM      Worship



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF LA PORTE

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**Preschool** is beginning a new curriculum tailor-made for our youngest learning group. “Little Lambs” preschool curriculum follows the Bible stories that our children will love to listen and to learn! These beginning stories and lessons will be the foundation for them to build their relationship with Jesus for the rest of their lives.

**Elementary school** children will be learning with the latest “Kid Connection” curriculum. This fall they will be starting off with the story of the earth’s beginning and learning about taking care of God’s creation, our beautiful earth. They will discover that God makes wonderful promises and will be learning about a new start with Noah, the story of Abraham and Sarah and the amazing birth of Isaac. Rounding out the adventure is the story of Joseph and his brothers, filled with intrigue, dreams and schemes! What an exciting start for our Children’s Ministry!

**Middle school youth** will be following a path of self-discovering in “Sharing Your Faith & Serving Others”. Our students will be challenged and equipped to be bold disciples of Christ in this learning series filled with activities and exercises to introduce them to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. They will learn to listen for God’s calling to participate in God’s work of redemption and reconciliation. They will realize their personal mission at home and around the world! This will give our middle school youth the tools and confidence they need to feel ready to face the challenges of life! They will tap into the overflowing love for God and neighbor and learn good community stewardship!

**High school youth** will be embarking on a creative stewardship challenge. “T3- Talent, Treasure, Time” is 9 weeks of discovery where they will explore how to use all God has given them – their Talent, Treasure, & Time to make a difference for his kingdom. They will put into action the stuff they read in the Bible and talk about with friends! This is real life and our service minded youth will enjoy taking action within their community. All God ever needs to make an impact is a heart willing to give it all to him. God is calling you to spend Sunday mornings with your friends sharing your faith as a believer in the Good News that is Jesus Christ! See you on Sundays!

Join us during worship September 11<sup>th</sup> for a great children’s “God is Green” slideshow starring our children, youth and adults! Stay and enjoy refreshments afterwards in the new Christian Education rooms during Fellowship Hour September 11<sup>th</sup>!



## Mission Trip

## Mission Trip Musings by David Hay

It’s still summer and school has just started, but I find myself thinking back to the most challenging and rewarding part of my summer vacation, the week I spent on the mission trip to Camp Courageous, Monticello, Iowa with our youth and several adult volunteers.

Those of you who were in church the Sunday we returned heard many powerful stories from our youth about the challenging task of working in the hot sun and the rewarding task of befriending and working with physically and intellectually disabled campers. I have never been prouder to be a member of this church than during that week in Iowa.

We arrived knowing we had physical labor to do, but we also wanted to offer ourselves to the campers any way we could. We learned that, by necessity, camp days are highly structured, and our chances to interact with them seemed to be only at meal times. Also, since the camp was not church-affiliated, we could not offer Bible study to the campers.

Like true disciples, these limitations did not deter us. Under Tammy Jacobi’s inspired direction, the youth put on two lunchtime playlets--a brief sketch showing a Bible-based good way to treat people, followed by a current song the campers knew. We offered evening Bible study and snacks to the counselors, and some joined us after a long day.

Thanks to Tom Severs’ inspiring words and Tammy’s diplomacy, we got more involved with the campers, eating with them and getting to know them better. We also were able to help with evening programs, and I know camp staff appreciated our helping hands. By week’s end, we were deeply connected to the campers, more than just a work detail.

All of us on the mission trip appreciated your prayers and good wishes. The wristbands we wore all week reminded us of how blessed we were to have such support from you. We truly lived out the lyrics of the old song “They’ll know we are Christians by our love.”





9/01	Darby Alcorn	9/16	Robert Voelker Jr.
9/02	Bob Miller	9/20	Dawn Link
9/04	Betty Schoff	9/20	Pam Dishman
9/04	Susan Holaway	9/21	Bob Fleisher
9/04	Eric Moelker	9/22	Helen Canfield
9/05	Walter Leszczyszyn	9/22	Richard Cygan
9/05	Delanie Alcorn	9/22	Chad Holaway
9/08	Katie Naas	9/24	Austin Wicks
9/11	Jack Lay	9/25	Marlete Kiff
9/14	Lisa Elenz	9/26	Michael McNally
9/15	Ron Dilks	9/27	Jane Ayars
9/15	Emily Osborn	9/28	Carol Koenemann
		9/28	Colin Hay
		9/30	Sandra Bangs

## Losses in Our Church Family



Bill Kolash  
June 15, 2011

Dick Sims  
June 27, 2011

Geree Boston  
July 16, 2011

Ruth Veldman  
July 25, 2011

Ann Rainier  
August 18, 2011

# Sunday Adult Classes

Contemporary Class, we will be using both “The Thoughtful Christian” series, studying current opinions, and Rob Bell’s DVD series, thought-provoking studies. See you in the gallery!

Adult Bible Class with Steve Curry will meet in the Bell Choir Room (next to the Senior High Room). Class will be starting on Sunday, September 18th. “Gospel in Life” is an interactive DVD series that will help participants see themselves in light of a clearer and deeper understanding of the gospel. The goal of the class will be to examine the question, “How do you live out the Gospel?”.



### Thursday Nite Live: taking a slightly different look



Thursday Nite Live will return in early October with a slightly new look. With the discontinuance of the children and youth choirs, our “Faith Weaver Friend” program will expand its scope to include the music component offered in the curriculum that we thus far not used. Our children will still experience the Bible story in a fun “Instant Drama” and enjoy crafts and games designed to reinforce the Bible story. They will also continue to have the opportunity for reflection in their coloring and journal books.

“Youth to Youth Bible Study” will continue to be the highlight of our Youth component for Thursday Nite Live. We will also offering the “game time” and a new homework huddle/ chill and chat time.

Pastor Sally will be offering Adult Bible Study again and we are still working on some other adult offerings.

Watch your bulletin for details and the start date!

The Session met on Tuesday, August 2, at the home of Marcia Morris. Action items important to the life of the congregation included the following:

1. Received the report of the Second Service Committee and approved the following Sunday morning schedule: 9 a.m. Contemporary Worship/Children's Church; 10 a.m. Sunday School; 11 a.m. Traditional Worship
2. Report on painting and sprucing up of children's classrooms.
3. Approved a motion to drop all restrictions on David Cota.
4. Approved hiring of a pastoral assistant if the way be clear.
5. Granted permission for Presbyterian Women to hold a fall rummage sale and a spring tea.
6. Approved with regret the resignation of Tom Moelker from Session.
7. Upcoming Events:

August 6	Ruth Veldman Graveside service
August 8-14	Sally on vacation
August 14	Nancy Brinklow preaching
August 20	Bill Kolash memorial service
August 23	All Committee Night
August 28	Carillon Concert
September 11	Sunday School Kickoff
September 13	Next Session meeting



Welcome our new Organist

We are delighted to welcome Carey Scheck to our church as our new organist/pianist. Carey is a graduate of Valparaiso University with her B.A. in church music and her Masters in piano performance from Western Illinois University. She comes to us most recently from the Chesterton Presbyterian Church.

Carey lives here in LaPorte with her husband, Mike, who is the new band director for the South Central Schools in Union Mills. Carey teaches piano and has about 35 students in her studio.

We are so pleased to add Carey to our church family. Be sure to stop by the organ and wish her well!

## Genesis Handbell Choir Begins

Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 7th. The rehearsals will begin at 9:15 a.m. promptly. Please notify Marcia Morris if you plan to attend. Welcome all Ding-a-lings.



Choir members and potential choir members: rehearsals for the Chancel Choir begin Wednesday, September 7th at 7:15 p.m. We will begin singing for worship on September 11th. Anyone one who would like to sing in the choir

please come and join us. If you have any questions or need some words of encouragement to become a choir member contact Kathleen at 363-8610 or [judgeland@hotmail.com](mailto:judgeland@hotmail.com).

## Staffing Changes

We were saddened to receive Jim Rodger's resignation in August. Jim has been struggling with cancer treatments all summer and felt that now was the time to let the church seek a replacement. He wrote in his letter, "The uncertainty of my health makes this necessary, with yet another round of chemotherapy coming up. I certainly appreciate the support I have received from members of the church, and I ask you to keep me in your prayers." We will certainly keep Jim in our prayers. Cards of encouragement are always welcome to Jim. You can send greetings to his home at 1702 Michigan Ave., La Porte. Jim has been a valued member of our staff and we will miss him dearly.

We also will be saying goodbye to Mary Kay Steele this fall. The children and youth choirs have been struggling in the last couple of years. Many of the youth no longer wish to participate in a choir, and our children's numbers are quite small. The Session, in its August meeting made the difficult decision to discontinue the children and youth choir programs for now. Perhaps in the future, we may make a new beginning when our little children grow and we see an increase in the number of children interested in a choir program.

We very much appreciate Mary Kay's good work among us and wish her well in her continued work in the Methodist Church.

## Christian Education Hosts Fellowship on Kick Off Sunday, September 11th

Do you know what C.E. did last Summer?...they were hard at work creating a fresh new learning space to help nurture the faith of our children, and now they want to celebrate “Kick Off Sunday” with you. Join Christian Education after worship on September 11<sup>th</sup> for an Open House for the newly redecorated children’s church, elementary and preschool class rooms on the lower level. Enjoy refreshments while the children create a “God is Green” themed bulletin board. Come and see the freshly painted walls and accents, along with new learning tools for teachers and students! A special thank you goes to our painting team of Carl Shulz, Jack Beck and Steve Curry! Thank you also to the wonderful committee members and youth volunteers, Emma MacSwiney, Megan Nibert and Spenser Shaffer, that helped make this happen!

## Fall Sermon Series: Proceeding with Holy Daring

We are about to take on a pretty big challenge in our congregation this fall. Where do we get the idea that we should actually be able to accomplish this large goal of beginning an alternative worship service hopefully reaching out to new people who will become new friends? We believe God is leading us in this direction. Yikes! In anticipation of this new challenge Pastor Sally will helping us consider how we may proceed with Holy daring on this new adventure.

Sept 11 *Proceeding with Holy Daring: Knowing our Resources*  
Matt. 14: 13-21      Feeding of the 5000

Sept 18 *Proceeding with Holy Daring: Knowing God's Power*  
Matt 14: 22-33      Jesus walks on the sea

Sept 25 *Proceeding with Holy Daring: Knowing the Center*  
Matt 18: 21-35      Forgive 7 X 70

Oct 2      *Proceeding with Holy Daring: Knowing our Confession*  
Matt 16: 13-20      Peter's confession

Oct 9      *Proceeding with Holy Daring: Knowing Amazing Grace*  
Matt 20: 1-16      The man who hired laborers



Welcome to our new year of Christian Education as we explore the beauty of God’s creation and ask ourselves how can we become worthy stewards of this remarkable planet and all it’s creatures. The fun begins on “Kick Off Sunday”, September 11<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate “God is Green” and introduce our first “Green Sunday”. A “Green Sunday” will happen once a month as the children, and youth classes

will study what it means to become responsible for our natural resources, animals and each other. Each class will choose a hands-on “Green Experience” that will have an impact on our environment for that day, week and month. Our children and youth can learn by doing: taking Action for God’s creation! If you would like to help as part of the “Green Team”, please contact Tammy Jacobi or Cristi Vanes. It’s important for the children and youth to hear how adults in their faith community honor God’s earth and creatures by recycling, re-using, reducing! Spend time with these wonderful students for an intergenerational “Green Experience”! Hippies are welcome.

## What’s New at the Library?

Our church library now has 12 books by C.S. Lewis, which are found in three different areas.

We also have all 7 of The Chronicles of Narnia in CD Sets (good items for long trips by car) and we have a biography of the famous author: Clive Staple Lewis: a Dramatic Life by W. Griffen, found in Biographies over the desk; pink circle B on the spine.

A complete list of C.S. Lewis books available and where they are located can be found on an 8x10 sheet on the counter in the library in the Fireside Room.

