



THE FIRST WORD

News from the First United Methodist Church
of South Bend, Indiana

In the heart of the city since 1831

October 26, 2011

Issue #445

POCKETS

We have been struggling with finances; this seems to be a late-summer, early-fall issue each year. The good news is, we are spending thousands of dollars less than what we budgeted.

The bad news is, we are not receiving enough income to meet our bills; total contributions are well below our budget and lower than our income at this time last year..

It brings up the peculiar issue – if we don't have the money, how can we do things like hire new staff? How can we spend money on things like a new outdoor sign? What about the money we need for Operation Upgrade, for the now-pending bill of a total of \$80,000 for the new roof we had to have for the Christian Education Building?

Different pockets.

The General Budget is what most things come out of – I always give my tithe to the “current expenses” line on my envelope, and then give extra to the other things; I want to be sure that my church has the basic money to function! And that is where we are running short.

A different pocket – money already budgeted in our General Budget paid for our organist and our Associate Pastor. Two positions on staff are not filled, and with our beloved Betty Woodland resigning, we were able to further reconfigure how monies were allocated. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is well within their budget, and in 2011 will have spent substantially less than was planned; and that is where the money came from for those two positions.

A different pocket – a beloved member who has gone to heaven left behind a substantial amount for the church in his will. Church Council agreed that half went to Current Expenses and half went to Memorials Committee. From that Committee, along with some money from our Central Fund (another pocket, dedicated to Outreach and Missions) has created the opportunity about which I wrote several months ago – a new sign, raising the profile of our church in the community. People will actually know we are here! Not a penny came from our budgeted line items for this new project.

A different pocket – what will be Operation Upgrade, once the funds come in – will go to repay a loan from one of our funds, which we borrowed at 4% interest. It pays for the \$80,000 roof on the Christian Education part of our building. Two years ago, we were assured the roof would be good for another ten to fifteen years. Alas, upon inspection this last winter, 80% of the material up there was already saturated with rain water, leaking into the building below.

Like any household, we have different pockets. Unlike any household, we are legally and ethically bound not to spend any money except for that which it has been designated; we do not have one pot of money from which to draw, but instead, several different pockets.

Mary L. Hubbard

Worship Schedule

Worship, Chapel
9:00 a.m.

Sunday School
10:00 a.m.

Worship, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
7:00 a.m. - Noon
12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday: 7:00 a.m. - Noon
Phone: (574) 233-9463
Fax: (574) 233-9478

First Staff

Mary L. Hubbard
Senior Pastor
Robert Lewis
Associate Pastor
Marsha Dollar
Administrative Assistant
Wishart Bell
Director of Music
Leora Nauta
Organist
Lou Anne Wilson
Financial Manager
David Frey
Coordinator of Youth Ministries
Ben Noell
Building Manager
John Jung-Zimmerman
Upper Room Director

**HAVE YOU REMEMBERED
FIRST CHURCH IN YOUR
WILL?**

OUR 180TH CELEBRATION WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

On behalf of the Welcoming Team, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the 180th Celebration. Everyone did a fantastic job! This could not have been done without you. It was great to see so many of our 50+ year members present for this occasion. Our attendance was good for the celebration too. It just goes to show we have a very loving and caring congregation.

Linda Phillips
Chair, Welcoming Team

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **November 6th is All Saints Sunday.**
- **November 13th at 6:00 p.m. is the Children of Abraham Concert at Clay Church. Tickets are \$10. Contact Clay Church or Grace UMC to purchase tickets.**
- **November 30th at 6:30 p.m. is the Charge Conference for our cluster. It will be held at Clay Church.**
- **December 4th at 12:30 p.m. is our next New Members Class. It will be held in the Parlor. Contact Linda Phillips (291-1074) if you are interested in being part of it.**

PRAYER LIST

Following is a prayer list. Please remember to include these people in your regular prayers:

Brandon Berger - Deployed to Afghanistan	Mary Lou Gordon - Health concerns
Jonathan Mayers - In military service	Ron Florey - Health concerns
Michael Pershell - In military service	Marilyn Prue - Health concerns
Stephen Gramza - In military service	Carol Goodhew - Health concerns
Jeremy Martin - Special needs	Mary Jo Beemer - Health concerns
Christyne Woolridge - Health concerns	Will Johnston - Health concerns
Jim Pickens - Health concerns	Betty J. Byers - Health concerns
Willa Pickens - Health concerns	David Easterbrook - Eye Problems
Thorin Grey Yeager (Deb Mayers' Grandson) - Health concerns	

Also remember to pray for our members in long-term care, assisted living, and independent living:

Martha Abernethy	Betty Byers	Mary Jo Beemer	Mary Etta Rees
Ruth Garen	Virginia O'Hair	Rich Daniels	JoAnn Ballard
Clem Gramza	Hannah Messersmith	Jo Perkey	Betty Barnes
Hugh & Lois Warren	Jim Borden	Thair Best	Margaret Grant
Melvena Stenger	Betty Fisk	Jeanette Koehler	Margaret Wickizer

Additionally pray for:

Our Bishop Mike	Our Church	Our Pastor Mary
Our District Superintendent, Cindy	Our Church Staff	Our Pastor Bob

THANK YOU

It is with deep appreciation I wish to thank every one from the pastoral staff, the music staff, ushers, and all our friends and church family for you expression of sympathy at Peggy's passing. First Church was a part of her life for a long and dear time. Thank you all for all your love.

Bill Soderberg

MARILYN PRUE

Marilyn Prue spent 39 days in Illinois having surgery, recovering, and going through Rehab. She is finally home now. However she is very tired, weak and short of breath. She is house-bound and has a visiting nurse.

Here is her address if you would like to send a card:

Marilyn Prue
1201 Woodlawn Blvd
South Bend, IN 46616



*Clay, First, Grace and Northwest United Methodist Churches Present
in a Benefit Concert for Children of Abraham*

*Recording Artist
David Wells
& The Jim Pickley Trio*

*Sunday, November 13, 2011 at 6:00 P.M.
Clay Church, North Campus
52866 Ironwood Road,
South Bend, Indiana
Tickets Available Here, \$10
Children and Youth Free with Parent*



Medical Equipment to Heal the World

We hope you will come, enjoy the evening, featuring *David Wells*, the 2010 American Smooth Jazz Award nominee for Gospel Jazz Artist of the Year, and *The Jim Pickley Trio*, Michiana's top smooth jazz group. In doing so you will support *Children of Abraham*, an Indiana based United Methodist charity that closely works with other Christian denominations, Muslims and Jews to provide U.S. surplus medical supplies to hospitals and clinics that provide free treatment to the poorest and most desperate people on earth. *Children of Abraham* is sponsored in this area by *Methodists in Mission to South Bend*, made up of the Clay, First, Grace and Northwest United Methodist congregations. The organization has also been supported by *Memorial Hospital* and the *Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center*. We are a charity closely tied to the *Northwest Indiana Islamic Center*, *Saint John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church* and *Temple Israel*, all in Lake County, Indiana, and to the *Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church*. Our Board of Directors has physicians and clergy from all of these religions.

Created in 2003, our goal is to provide relief to people regardless of creed or nationality. We have shipped nearly \$60 million of medical supplies to 32 nations on five continents, resupplying hospitals from war-torn Iraq to mountain villages in South America to the most remote places in Africa and Asia. We have supplied clinics in former Soviet states in Europe and have shipped to Hurricane Katrina disaster sites in the United States. We do not seek theological consensus between Muslims, Jews and Christians. We agree to politely disagree on matters of faith, except for this: We profess that the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Ishmael, the God of Moses, the God of Mohammad, the God of Jesus Christ, is a God of mercy, and when people are sick or dying they deserve God's mercy regardless of the religion of the person delivering it, or the religion of the recipient. Through this we assist each other in the demand of God found in all three religions that trace themselves to Abraham; that we have compassion for those in need. We hope to show the world that people of all faiths can work together for the common welfare. Our motto is quite simply, "*Medical Equipment and Supplies to Heal the World.*"

THE BIBLE AND THE TV GUIDE

Author unknown



On the table side by side
The Holy Bible and the T.V. Guide.

One is well worn, yet cherished with pride,
But that one is not the Bible, it's the T.V. Guide.

One is used daily to help folks decide,
No! it isn't the Bible, it's the T.V. Guide.

As the pages are turned what shall they see?
Oh! It doesn't matter, just turn on the T.V.

Then confusion is started, for they can't all agree
On what they shall watch on the old T.V.

So they refer to the book in which they all confide
But it isn't the Bible, it's the T.V. Guide.

The Word of God is seldom read.
Maybe a verse before they fall into bed.

Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be,
Not from reading the Bible, but from watching T.V.

Then back to the table side by side,
The Holy Bible and the T.V. Guide.

No time for prayer, No time for the Word.
The plan of salvation is seldom heard.

**Forgiveness of sin so full and free
We find in the Bible and not on T.V.**

**Remember to bring your
plastic grocery bags to the
Food Pantry!**



LAUDATE RINGERS

Laudate Ringers, our resident handbell choir, has openings for three players. Experience reading music helps but is not necessary. If you are interested in more information, call our Music Director (Wishart Bell) at the church office at 233-9463.

VESPER CHORALE

Over the past years, Musical Arts Indiana has been expanding its ensembles and programs. Now it is time to replenish our volunteer cadre that warmly and efficiently serves our audiences at the season's concerts.

We need your help - to sell tickets at the door, to usher and pass out program books, to sell our CDs, to gather the market surveys at the end of the concerts, and to help out at our receptions.

The benefit to you: a pass to the concert and the opportunity to be a core part of an exciting arts organization known for artistry, education, and inspiration.

If you are interested, call Patti Doyle at 574-360-4713 or email at doyle4241@sbcglobal.net.

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Check out the website:

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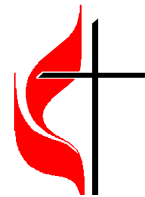
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A GREETING FROM THE CELTIC MUSICIANS



*May brooks and trees and singing hills join
in the chorus, too. And every gentle wind
that blows, send happiness to you.*

**Join us for Worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
and hear the Celtic Musicians play.**



The People of The United Methodist Church

- Help people in their community
- Accept you for who you are
- Offer a place to belong
- Care for and support each other
- Show respect for other religions
- Support people facing difficulty
- Welcome diverse opinions and beliefs
- Guide others to find deeper meaning