

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BRAIDWOOD

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OCTOBER 2010 NEWSLETTER



October 16th - 4 year anniversary of my installation as pastor in Braidwood. Look at all the positive changes we've experienced together. Look at all the new faces in worship. We remain a vital and active ministry in this community. Thanks to all who are invested in keeping the hope alive.

Yet one constant remains in all communities – many who do not attend or get involved with church. There are excuses such as: “They don't offer anything for ...” or “Church is boring.” These comments make me cringe. My challenge to the critics remains - “What are YOU doing to make things better?”, What can you do so the church can “offer” programs of interest to others?

1 Peter 4:10-11 reads, “God has given gifts to each one of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them so that God's generosity can flow through you. Are you called to be a speaker? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Are you called to help others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then God will be given glory in everything through Jesus Christ.”

So many shy away from using the gifts and talents that God has given them. Some may say - “I can't sing, I don't speak well, I don't know how to teach, and on and on. So many shy away from asking others to join them in Sunday worship.

The truth found in scripture though says God has given each of us some talent or gift to be used for the common good, to enjoy ourselves and to help one another. Everyone has at least one gift. They are not ours to use for our exclusive enjoyment. When we use our gifts in helping others, they see Jesus in us and God is glorified for the help they have received.

Our program emphasis this year is “Back to Church Sundays” as a means to reach out to those in the community who have left church for whatever reason in the past (ours or others). Part of our effort includes a booklet titled “reDiscover Church - ten reasons people leave church, and why they're coming back.” It is an excellent tool for us in the church to rediscover why we are here and to help reach out to others in our lives.

The goal is to get one of these booklets to those in our church who will read the booklet and promise to pass it on to someone in their life who is not part of a church. And if you think that you might no measure up in some way, remember that we don't live the Christian life on our own strength. We must look to the Lord. In fact God delights in using us when we feel weak. The key is to step out in faith, take a risk, see what God can accomplish in and through you. This booklet is one more tool we can use to reach others for Jesus Christ and for the future of our church as well.

Are you up to the challenge? Talk to me and let me know you want one of those booklets.

Peace to all!

Dale

Bible Verse of the Month

Train up a child in the way they should go: and when they are old, they will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6 (adapted))

The sad truth evident these days is that so many young people are given the choice of going to church or staying home and biblical instruction is not done in the home. When our young people face the pressures of the world, there is no foundation for them to grab hold of. They quickly get pulled in to the influences of the world. What does the future hold for them? God only knows.

“The cure for crime is not in the electric chair - but in the high chair!” (God’s Little Instruction Book)

Sunday School News

Our church school classes are well under way. It’s great to see the growing. There is still room for more. Classes begin at 9:00 AM with children attending classes followed by our regular worship service. We will be working on some great songs with the kids too.



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN - We are repeating the mini mission trip we took in the summer. It is open to third grade and up. The kids are off school that day. The group is gathering at the church on Friday October 8th and leaving at 10:30 - and should return around 4:00. There are still spots available. It’s a great time. For more information or to be put on the list, please contact Hope at 815-545-2011.

Church happenings:

Session recently voted to open our doors to a new program. We welcome “Just For Kix” to our church and community.

“Just For Kix” is innovative dance instruction incorporating various styles of dance. Dancers strive to achieve their very best. “Just 4 Kix” instills teamwork, cooperation, positive thinking and excellence in all its dancers. Novice and experienced dancers, boys and girls alike are welcome.

JFK dancers include children from pre-school through senior high - divided into classes by age for maximum confidence and self-esteem building. No auditions are necessary for these once a week classes. The dance style offered currently is Precision Kick. As the classes grow, future varying dance styles will include: Jazz; Hip Hop; Lyrical; Ballet; and Tap. Each session includes fun choreography with upbeat music. Come check it out, give it a try, and please - spread the word.

We’re excited for the opportunity to offer these classes to young people from our church and throughout the community. You are encouraged to extend an invitation to your own kids, grandkids, friends and neighbors. All classes are under the direction of Marjorie Daly - program director. She can be reached by phone at 217 737-3841, or e-mail at: braidwood_il@justforkix.com. You can also visit the website at www.justforkix.com.

= October 10th Soup and Sandwich fellowship will follow worship. =

“Don’t Stew Over Supper - Come Join Us for Dinner”

Our Fall fundraiser will be held on Saturday November 6th from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm in our fellowship hall. We’ll be serving Home Made Beef Stew with biscuit. The meal will include salad dessert and drink. For those that may not like stew, we will also have available a hearty Potato Soup also home made.

Tickets will be available in advance and at the door. But beware, tickets are limited - so buy early. The price for the meal will be \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 kids 10 and under.

Mark you calendar and bring the whole family. See you there!

Ecumenical Worship

The annual Braidwood Thanksgiving Ecumenical service is just around the corner. It is scheduled for Tuesday November 23rd at 7:00 pm. Immaculate Conception CC is the host this year. Alice and I are selecting music for the service and especially for the choir. If you are interested in singing with the choir, let Pastor Dale or Alice know and we will notify you of upcoming practice dates and times. We are also looking for some young people’s voices to sing a song or two for the service.



Church World Service



The book bags have been made for the school kits we send to World Service. I believe all the items we need for them have been bought and now we just need them put together. There will be 28 of them. Thanks to Ruth for making the bags and Joyce for getting the supplies to fill them. All the supplies are packed and ready to go - 27 school bags.

This year we are also sending some Baby Care Kits. But we’re still in need of a few supplies. In order to do this we will need: six cloth diapers, two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies), two washcloths, two gowns or sleepers, two diaper pins, one sweater or sweatshirt (can be a hand-knitted or crocheted), two receiving blankets. Items must be new and under 12 months in size. There is a tub outside the office for baby items. If you would like to donate money we will be happy to purchase these items if you prefer.

= Session meets Wednesday October 20th 5:30 =



Birthdays This Month

OCTOBER

BIRTHDAYS:

- 1st Marge Malher
Isaac Sawyer
- 10th Robert Maly
Chuck Fiala
- 14th Bill Brockman
Alex Sawyer
- 18th Michael Kilpatrick
- 19th Aaron Sims
- 20th Curtis Saltzman
- 23rd LuAnn Bolatto
Joe Kalebich



ANNIVERSARIES:

- October 12th Greg and Laura Stephens
- October 17th Dennis and Marge Malher
Kevin and Susan Marchi
- October 23rd Glen and Marie Crater

Read ahead:

Readings for Sundays in October and November. (OT = ordinary time)

- *10/3/10 OT 27 - Lamentations 1:1-6, 3:19-26; Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10
- *10/10/10 OT 28 - Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19
- *10/17/10 OT 29 - Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8
- *10/24/10 OT 30 - Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14
- *10/31/10 OT 31 - Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12;
Luke 19:1-10
- *11/7/10 OT 32 - Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,
13-17; Luke 20:27-38
- *11/14/10 OT 33 - Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
- *11/21/10 Christ the King - Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
- *11/28/10 Advent 1 - Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44



A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

As she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late... But please don't shove me either!"

Back by popular demand:
The Dimensions of Grief & Loss
“Learning to Live with Loss”



by: Clarice Schultz RN, BSN

Clarice Schultz has taught courses on grief and loss for the past 35 years at colleges, hospitals, and churches as well as presenting workshops and seminars for Hospice.

When: Thursday evenings 6:30 – 9:30 PM
September 30 – November 4, 2010

Where: First Presbyterian Church
106 S. Lincoln, Braidwood, IL 60408
For Reservations call 815-458-6317

Cost: \$40.00 (limited seating - call Pastor Dale for reservations
- leave a message on the machine)

Don't miss this valuable opportunity to learn and share and fellowship, There's still time to join in even if you missed a class.