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Vol. 12 Issue 5 News from the First Presbyterian Church, Marshall June 2010

A Minute in Ministry

So my last column ... wondering what to write ... staring around the office ... books filling the shelves. All those books I'll get to pack and move! Books from my seminary days. Old books from retired ministers in my youth passed on to me. Books about history and culture from college. Books from higher education administration. Newer books I've read here and there over my years in Marshall that have helped me grow spiritually in some way. Books we've read together for adult education. Books you've given me to mark some occasion, or just because you were thinking of me. Resource books I've used to plan worship every week. Books to tell us how things should be done in the Presbyterian way. Special books I've used at every baptism, wedding, and funeral. So many books.

And so many memories of life with you ... that line my heart and mind like books stacked on shelves overflowing. These weeks ahead are a time to scan them again. I need to pack them safely so they will survive the move. Before I get started I sit back and appreciate the aesthetic beauty of bookshelves lining a room. I appreciate the vision of beauty and goodness we have shared over our years together. The volumes (experiences) large or small and varying greatly in color create a comforting environment which has felt very much like home, and in which God's Spirit has moved powerfully. Even those collected works that are a bit more tattered and worn add character to the whole.

As I start packing preparations, I'll pull them off the shelf and glance through them again. I'll find many "dear friends" with familiar passages, particular bits underlined or noted for attention. And I'll enjoy "re-reading" them again. Some masterpieces will sit there lined up neatly just waiting to be discovered again –suggesting when I read between the lines: "if you would have consulted me more often you would have been all the wiser." And surely I'll stumble across other precious tomes that were stacked on top and fell down behind. Maybe I'll even uncover an edition or two I thought I'd loaned to someone and couldn't locate but was really here all the time. And surely there will be a few manuscripts – a few hopes or promises we intended to fulfill – that will have gone "unread" by the time I leave.

(Continue on next page)

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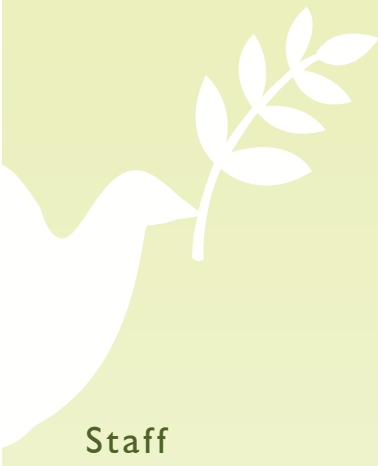
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**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

First Light



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A Minute in Ministry (Cont.)

I am comforted by the expectation that volumes of experience we have shared will be carried with me to line the shelves wherever I am. Whenever a particular question arises, I will remember an author who spoke to that once in my past. If I'm lucky maybe I'll even remember something of the title and find it without difficulty. You will be resources of wisdom I will consult again. Your lines of humor will make me laugh again. Your chapters of struggle will continue to inspire. The poetry of your smiles and voice and activities bring something of goodness and beauty out of me, as well.

Or maybe even better, it will all be kind of like my own bible. That's not to suggest some heresy about the primacy of life experience over scripture. Rather I'm reminded that "bible" really literally means "library," of course – a collection of books, more than simply a single holy book written by one author. Just as the Bible gathers and expresses many voices, so will my collection of experiences be with you. You know, actually Celtic Christian spirituality speaks of the "Big Book" of creation and the "Little Book," the Bible, through which God's Spirit speaks to us. Maybe I'll add to that the "Medium Book" – life and love we have shared that has mediated to me the presence of God, the power of the Spirit, the purpose of Christ, our Lord. At the genesis I will always cherish that God created us and all things in love and called us very good. In the middle I will always remember that time and again, through imperfect fits and starts, we try to fulfill the commandment to love God and neighbor. And at the end of all things I will hope for the revelation of a holy heavenly city where God dwells with us, within us, among us so fully that there are no more tears, no more mourning, no more pain. Rather through this heart of this community will flow a river to nourish life abundant for all peoples together. With such a promise and experience of God's steadfast love may we all...

Go out into the world in peace, but do not expect to find peace in every place you go. Yet, have courage. Hold on to what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the suffering. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord, your God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. May you go with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and communion of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Grace and peace,

Seth

Celebratory Open House

On Sunday, June 20th from noon to 2pm we will be hosting an open house celebrating the Weeldreyer Family. The celebration will be open to the public and we encourage all current and former First Presbyterian Church Members to be a part of the celebration. If you would like to help with set-up, coordination, or clean-up please contact Michael McNeil at 269.789.0721 or Michael.mcneil@gmail.com.



We've Noticed

Many thank you to those who sent cards, called, or visited me in the hospital. A special thanks to those who visited me at home during my prolonged recovery! - Bonnie Wigent

To all the special people at First Presbyterian Church, it turns out we love YOU more than peanut butter and chocolate chip cookies too! – Phil and Michael

How to say thank you for 12 years of loving care, friendship and just being there when needed? It's hard to do and even more difficult to put into words but; Seth, Suzanne, Ailih, Gabriel & Nathaniel I want you to know what an important part you have played in the life of both Becky and me....from rainy & sunny days at the Georgian Bay to church picnics in your driveway...every day with all of you has been a truly great gift and for all of this I say a most sincere and loving THANK YOU!!! Creighton

For your guidance, for your patience, for your counsel, for your thoughtfulness, for your loving and gentle presence in good times and bad, for everything you have given so generously, THANK YOU Seth and Suzanne –Michael and Phil

Seth and Suzanne-A huge "Thank You" for all you have done for the church, community, and our family. We wish your family the best in this next step in your lives.-The VanderWegs

Seth - You are the person who showed me the way towards the discovery of what spirituality, grace and faith are all really all about. Thank you !! – Rich Healey

Thank you, Seth, for all the support in the loss of my sister. Your understanding was a loving help in going on with my life. God bless you. Peace be with you – Whitney

Dear Seth and Suzanne: Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile, nor the joy of companionship, it is the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when you discover that someone else believes in you and is willing to trust you with a friendship." Thanks to you both for all of the above as you gave and shared yourselves with the members of the First Presbyterian Church of Marshall. – Mark, JoEllen & Erin Gilbert

Seth - It's been an honor serving with you on session for almost six years. Our work has not always been easy, but under your direction, we were reminded of the goal – *Work for the good of the community with the Spirit guiding the process.* Thank You! Your friend always, Diane Kowalske

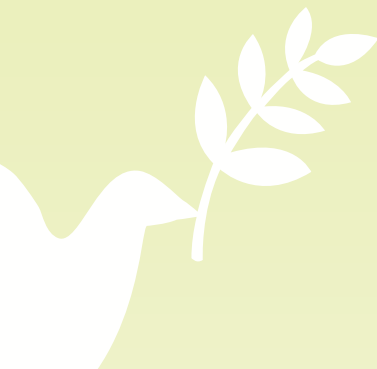
Relay for Life

Relay for Life will be held June 25th and 26th at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds. You can still buy luminaries in Fellowship Hall after service, sign-up to walk at the event, or help with set-up or breakdown of our site. We will be hosting a church picnic at the site on Friday, June 25th at 6:30pm. Community Outreach Ministry Team will provide sandwiches, chips, and drinks. Please bring a dish to pass, your lawn chair, and place setting. For additional information, please contact Michael McNeil at 269.789.0721 or Michael.mcneil@gmail.com.

First Light



First Light



Volunteers

Liturgists

June 6

Jack Vandy Bogurt

June 13

Nancy Rowland

June 20

Creighton Sherman

June 27

Ken MacNevin

Greeters

June 6

TBD

June 13

The Lillrose Family

June 20

TBD

June 27

Becky Davis

Coffee Hour Hosts

June 6

Church Picnic

June 13

Karen & Doug Earl

June 20

TBD

June 27

TBD

News from the PWA

Salad Luncheon

It is time for our annual **Salad Luncheon!** The luncheon will be hosted by Kathy Vandy Bogurt on Saturday, June 26 beginning at 12:00 noon and we ask that you bring a salad dish to pass and your own table service. Kathy lives at 615 North Drive West in Marshall. There should be plenty of parking in the driveway, or on the street. So, please join us on what we hope will be a sunny and warm afternoon to enjoy the conversation and friendship that always abounds when our ladies gather.

Back Pack Project 2010

Annie Mazure of the PWA has graciously offered to organize our church's Annual Back Pack project. Each year, through generous donations of school supplies and money from our congregation, we gather together in the back-to-school season to stuff brand new back packs with wonderful, new school supplies! Won't you help us continue the tradition? Our goal is to once again supply many freshly filled back packs with pencils, paper, crayons, rulers, glue sticks, and more. In August, the Presbyterian Women's Association and our Church School youth will gather to assemble the supplies and stuff the colorful back packs. The stuffed back packs are then given to children in the Marshall area via MACS – with hopes of providing some joy, excitement and basic supplies to begin their school year on a positive note.

Watch for more information about this exciting opportunity to serve the children in our community when Annie officially kicks off this program in July. Then, look for collection bins for donated back pack items on Sundays in July and August during the coffee hour. If you cannot purchase back pack supplies yourself, your monetary donations will enable us to purchase the needed supplies so that each back pack is equal and complete. So, look for more news on this program as the time gets closer and **THANK YOU** in advance for your support!

Communion

We trust in God the Holy / Spirit . . . who . . . feeds us / with the bread of life and the cup of salvation . . . " from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

The first Sunday of each month when Holy Communion is celebrated offers a unique opportunity for individuals, couples or families in the church to share in a special task – preparing the elements of Communion and setting the Communion Table. For some time, only members of the Worship Committee have done the preparation ahead of worship on Communion Sundays. At a recent meeting, the committee discussed the idea that others might wish to share in this special work on an occasional or regular basis. If that is the case, the committee will always have an experienced preparer on hand to help and answer any questions about the preparation process.

Beginning around an hour before worship, juice is poured into the cups and placed in the serving trays. Grape juice is also poured into a pitcher. A whole loaf of bread is readied for the pastor to break. Another loaf of bread is torn into pieces and placed on the bread plates. The serving dishes, the unbroken bread and pitcher of juice are placed in the sanctuary. It is that simple, and meaningful in its simplicity. After communion the preparers are joined by other church members for a short clean up process. Most people who prepare Communion will tell you that the preparation process, from the very smell of the juice and bread to setting the Table all combine to make Holy Communion have special deeper meaning. It becomes a spiritual activity – not a chore. Families with children who are receiving Communion (or will receive it soon) may find the preparation process a special time for discussion of our faith. If you would like to help prepare Communion, contact Ken MacNevin at Dasmacs@yahoo.com, 781 3329 or any of the other members of the Worship Committee. Let them know the Sunday you would like to help.

This summer, The Lord's Supper will be served: June 6th, July 4th and August 1st



Calendar Highlights

- Friday, June 4** PCFC Family Picnic, Ketchum Park 6:30pm
- Sunday, June 6** Second Sunday after Pentecost
1 Kings 17:8-16; Luke 7:36-50
Communion, Christian Education Recognition
Annual Church Picnic, Ketchum Park
- Monday, June 7** PWA Board Meeting, 7pm
- Saturday, June 8** Mary Martha, 10am
- Thursday, June 10** PCFC Board Mtg, 6:15pm
- Sunday, June 13** Third Sunday after Pentecost
1Kings 19:1-15a; Romans 1:1-7; 16:25-27
Congregational meeting after worship
- Monday, June 14** Teams 6:30/7pm
- Tuesday, June 15** Esther Circle, 7pm
- Thursday, June** PCFC Board Meeting, 6:15pm
- Friday, June 18** AWOL, 6:30pm
- Sunday, June 20** Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Psalm 42 and 43
Seth's last Sunday in worship
- Monday, June 21** Session, 6:30pm
Deacons, 7pm
- Sunday, June 27** Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Guest Pastor: John Best

AA meets each night of the week at 8:00pm.

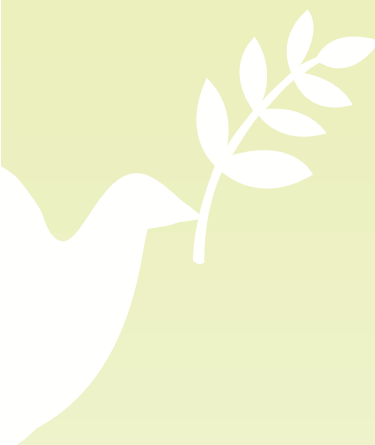
June Life at First Presbyterian Church						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 TOPS 8:30am	2 Choirs 6pm	3 Sip & Stitch 10am	4 Painters 1pm PCFC Family Picnic 6:30pm	5
6 Worship 10:15am Communion Church Picnic	7 PWA Board Mtg. 7pm	8 TOPS 8:30am Mary Martha 10am	9 Choirs 6pm	10 Sip & Stitch 10am PCFC Board Mtg 6:15pm	11 Painters 1pm	12
13 Worship 10:15am Cong. Mtg.	14 Teams 630/7pm	15 TOPS 8:30am Esther Circle 7pm	16 Choirs 6pm	17 Sip & Stitch 10am	18 Painters 1pm AWOL 6:30pm	19
20 Worship 10:15am	21 Session 630pm Deacons 7pm	22 TOPS 8:30am	23 Choirs 6pm	24 Sip & Stitch 10am	25 Painters 1pm	26
27 Worship 10:15am Guest Pastor	28	29 TOPS 8:30am	30 Choirs 6pm			29

First Light

Birthdays

- June 1**
Lee Thornton
- June 4**
Ken Machata
- June 5**
Mark Gilbert
- June 8**
Jean Brink
Katie Murphy
Benjamin Lillrose
- June 9**
Travis Wheeler
Martin Mees
- June 10**
Nancy Rowland
- June 11**
Whitney Jonas
Eddie Clothier
- June 13**
Marilyn Burke
- June 14**
Jeri Rodebaugh
Jack Blanck
- June 16**
Jerold Sweet
Robin Grondin
Ryan Bolton
- June 19**
Nathaniel Weeldreyer
- June 20**
Julie Ousley
- June 21**
Phil Martin
- June 22**
Kristin Dale
Jessica Hagedorn
- June 23**
William Connolly
Jenna Blanck
- June 27**
Suzanne Weeldreyer
- June 28**
Diane Hanway
Collin Hagedorn
- June 30**
Ronald Gill





News from Christian Education

Vacation Bible School RENEW – The Green VBS!

Grow in faith. Have fun. Change the world! What more could you want? Only days away now!! Don't forget to register your child(ren) and their friends! . Registration forms are available in the church office or you can register by sending a message to Suzanne at sweeldreyer@att.net . Please register your child as soon as possible if you know you'll be joining us. Walk in's will be more than welcome, though!

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to help us with supplies and snack foods. But, by press time for this newsletter we still needed many more items. Please contact Suzanne at 789-1537 to find out what we still need or look at coffee hour on June 6 for last minute needs!

A Final Thank You to our Amazing Teachers!

We send out a very heartfelt thank you to our teaching staff at FPC Marshall. They do an outstanding job with our kids! We will recognize our Christian Education Team in worship on **June 6** so that everyone can have a chance to thank them. Well Done, Teachers!

Teachers:	Jaime Collins	Lupe Fitch	Vicki Strand
	Rose Almaraz	Julie Machalka	Christi Barrett
	Kris Johnson	Mike Hagedorn	Carol Stewart

Youth Group Leader:	Kristin Kowitz
Adult Education:	Seth Weeldreyer, John Cox
Substitute teachers:	Jean Cox, JoEllen Gilbert, Deb Cascioli, Missy Lillrose, Douglas Gilbertson

Summer Praise Time Update

There will be **NO** Sunday school on **May 30** (Memorial Day Weekend) or **June 6** (Church Picnic). Children are welcome in worship and can enjoy a "Mystery Worship Bag" on those two Sundays! (*You'll just have to come and find out what the mystery is all about!*)

June 13 will be the first day of **Summer Praise Time!** Summer Praise Time is for all ages (Preschool - Fifth Grade) and is held at the same time as regular Sunday school classes; following the Time For Children. We will meet in the East Room where parents can pick up their child(ren) on the way to coffee hour.

AWOL

June AWOL will be held at the home of Rich and Polly Healey, 224 N. Kalamazoo Ave. on June 18th at 6:30pm. Please RSVP by June 14th at 269.789.0665 or email at rhealey@cequentgroup.com

Euchre Tournament

With busy summer schedules, the Euchre tournament will resume in September and will be hosted by Karen and Doug Earl, look for details in upcoming newsletters and bulletins!

Annual Church Picnic

Fellowship Committee is sponsoring our annual YEAR END ANNUAL CHURCH picnic to be held on **June 6th** at Ketchum Park following our church service. The picnic will be potluck. Fellowship committee will provide iced tea, lemonade, coffee, paper plates, napkins and cups.



Ushers Schedule

June 6

Head Usher – Abby Mershon
Elevator – Adam Dale
Bulletins – Kay Dale & Mason Fitch
Acolytes – Lacy Almaraz & Nick Vetter

June 13

Head Usher – Allison Brownell
Elevator – Parker Gilbertson
Bulletins – Madison Gilbertson
Acolytes – Riley Brownell

June 20

Head Usher – Nicholas Lillrose
Elevator – Katie Howard
Bulletins – Brooke Uzzle
Acolytes – Alex Veale

June 27

Head Usher – Alex Kowitz
Elevator – Ben Kowitz
Bulletins – Nolan Levack
Acolytes – Nick Vetter

If you cannot serve on your assigned Sunday, please arrange a trade or substitute, then notify Phil Mershon and the church office of your change - Thanks!

Stated Call

Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Marshall immediately following worship on Sunday, June 13, 2010. The purpose of this meeting will be to act upon the request of Seth Weeldreyer and the recommendation of Session that the pastoral relationship between him and this church be dissolved. This being a specially called meeting, no other business may be brought to the floor at this time.

Session Action

At a special meeting on May 10, your Session took the following actions:

- Authorized the baptisms of Katheryn Lyn Cobeen and Greyson Dominic Simmons
- Set the last date for Seth Weeldreyer under the Terms of Call as pastor of this church for July 18, 2010, with the period from June 22 until July 18 being vacation and study leave time for which he is entitled
- Held a lengthy conference call conversation with Genie Cooper, Vice-Moderator of Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, augmented by John Cox who has recently served on that committee, concerning our procedures for transition through the steps to find a new pastor.

At its regular meeting on May 24, Session took the following actions:

- Received financial reports for the month of April
- Approved a request from the Marshall Historical Society to be the featured church on this year's Homes Tour
- Called for a special meeting of the congregation on June 13 to dissolve the pastoral relationship of this church
- Appointed Creighton Sherman as Elder-commissioner to the June 8 meeting of Presbytery

Respectfully submitted, Phil Mershon, Session Clerk

Spiritual Development Opportunities

Faith at 8:45 – *If the Church Were Christian*

We will conclude this book by Phillip Gulley on June 20. The schedule is as follows:

- June 6 Ch 8 – Peace Would Be More Important than Power
- June 13 Ch 9 – It Would Care More About Love and Less About Sex
- June 20 Ch 10 – This Life Would Be More Important Than the Afterlife

The book is available at Fireside Books here in Marshall. We meet in the Lounge before Sunday worship each week beginning at 8:45.

First Light

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Finance

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Personnel

Jim VanderWeg
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Stewardship

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Ministry Team

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Mission

JoEllen Gilbert
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Doug Gilbertson
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Spiritual Life Ministry Team

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269.781.8529

Worship

Ken MacNevin
269.781.3329

Christian Education

Steve Hanway
269.789.0827

Fellowship

Creighton Sherman
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Shirley Clothier
269.781.2368

Deacons

Karen Earl
269.781.3211

Women's Association

Lisa DeGraw
269.841.6787



A Letter from Session

As our congregation celebrates the time we have had with Seth and his family, and as we bid a heartfelt good-bye and best wishes, some may be wondering about what happens in the next few weeks and months.

Our Session will meet on May 24th. and June 21st. with Seth as the moderator. Seth's last Sunday in the pulpit will be on June 20th. The Session is hopeful that by then a *TC (Transitional Counselor)*, appointed by Presbytery's *COM (Committee on Ministry)*, will have been chosen. This person will personally aid and direct the *PNC (Pastor Nominating committee)* throughout its entire search for our next Pastor.

Session's next job, with the help of Presbytery, will be to find and hire an Interim Pastor who's contract is normally for 1 year, renewable if necessary.

A *PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee)* will then be formed. This is a group of 7-10 people representing the make-up of our church members. The *PNC's* selection must be approved by a congregational vote. The *(TC) Transition Counselor* is the only person, outside of the *PNC*, who is allowed input into the search process. Next, the *PNC*, with the help of the *TC* and our congregation, will develop a *(CIF) Church Information Form*.

Then begins the search!!! The *PNC* will, at appropriate times, inform you, the congregation, of the status of the search. Please contact any Session member if you have any questions. We will do our best to answer them!

In Christ's Love,

Your Session Members

P.S. Please save the following for future reference:

CIF - Church Information Form

COM - Committee on Ministry

PNC - Pastor Nominating Committee

CIF - Church Information Form

TC - Transition Counselor

PIF – Pastor Information Form

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