



Community
Presbyterian
Church

THE CHIMES

Volume 32, Number 11

November, 2006

Dear Friends

“Under God’s Control”, three words that can explain all theories and happenings in the history of the world.

The big bang? - could happen under God’s control.

Evolution? - could happen under God’s control.

The parting of the waters, a birth by a virgin, any unexplainable or seemingly impossible situations can be so simple to understand if we think of “under God’s control.”

Our church is working to decide whether to repair, remodel, or build. We have a consultant to work with us on the options which will be presented to the congregation to decide what to do. The consultant, Assessment Committee members, Session members, and Trustees are mere mortals and could use a little help.

Please take a little time to bow your head, clasp your hands, and ask God to guide us to make the decisions that will please Him and I am sure everyone will be very satisfied if it is done “under His control.”

Ken Hanson, Elder

Community calendar

November, 2006

- 05 All Saints Day
- 19 9:45 Congregational Meeting (budget)
Bell Choir Bake Sale
- 22 7:00 Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service at St. Andrew’s
Lutheran Church
- 26 Noon Potluck and Tree/Church Trimming

Table of Contents

Church School News	5
Adult Education	5
Confirmation Class of 2007	5
Wednesday Nights	5
Holiday Care Packages	6
Youth News & Events	7
Presbyterian Youth Triennium!!	7
Worship	8
All-Saints’ Sunday Banners	8
Community Thanksgiving Eve Service	8
Lenten Devotional	8
Congregational Care	9
Fall Rummage Sale Successful	9
Bell Choir Bake Sale	9
Thanksgiving Food Bags	9
Snowbirds	9
Mission	10
Grace House	10
The 4th Annual St. Nicholas Dinner	10
Christmas International House	11
FAC Update	11
From the Treasurer	12
Peacemaking	12
Estimate of Giving	12
Charitable Contribution Changes	12
Stricter Substantiation of Money Donations	12

From The Pastor

One of the great joys of Sunday morning at Community Presbyterian Church is the number of children involved in worship. Youth are joining in service as greeters, ushers, sound technicians, musicians and worship leaders. During service, one of the most delightful times is having the blanket overflow with young people for the children's sermon. The Spirit is present in the spontaneity and honest observations of our youth!

It is important that we all take an interest in the youth of our church. This is true whether we are parents or not, whether our children have grown and left (or not). When a child is baptized, as we will do on November 26th, we ALL promise to foster his or her Christian development. It is our privilege and calling as "church adults" to be involved with and concerned about the spiritual development of our "church kids." Speaking as a parent of two of those, we welcome all the help we can get. Last month elder Dick Schneider wrote in Chimes about the great work of the CE committee, I would echo his recommendation to support their efforts in every way.

We all grow and change through our lifetimes, but sometimes it is easier to see the dramatic changes in a child's life. When our young people grow up in church and learn about God's love from an early age, they have a foundation for a lifetime. The children and youth of this church are great. They are a wonderful reminder of the future to come.

Our Stewardship theme this year is "Sharing out of our love. In Christ we have enough." Session is preparing a budget for 2007 at Community Presbyterian Church. The commitments we make will support the people, programs and the building that enable our ministry. These commitments serve to help us and others grow through the years. In Christ we have enough. Give Thanks!

Grace and Peace,
Dan

News of the Family

Nursing Homes

Evergreen Terrace: Betty Kauppi, Vivian Erickson,
Manor House: Amy Johnson, Beulah Zobel, Dorothy Brace
Grand Village: Clyde Crotteau, Bob Oftelie
Pleasant Seasons: Sylvia White, Edith Mae Carrier, Edith Fitzgerald,
Harold Jetland, Ed Sparen

Deaths

Reathie McLean passed away October 18. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Weddings

Kristen Erzar was married to Nathan Anderson at CPC on October 14. God bless this new couple!
Todd Stejskal was married to Amanda Winblad von Walter on July 29, 2006. A belated congratulations to the couple and God bless!!!

Births

Zane Robert Poenix was born to Jeff & Jennifer Poenix September 25th !
Congratulations to this new family and boy, is he ever cute!

Church School News

Adult Education

We meet every Wednesday at 5pm in room 102.

November 1: *Religion in Children's Books* (Margaret Morris)

November 8: *Religion in Children's Books* (Margaret Morris)

November 15: *Religion in Children's Books* (Margaret Morris)

November 22: **No Class - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service**

November 29: *Playing with the Minors* (Art Merrill)

The Playing with the Minors class taught by Art Merrill, will run four weeks and will discuss the minor biblical prophets, their times and their message.

Confirmation Class of 2007

Classes:

Wednesday, November 8: *Presbyterianism*

Wednesday, November 29: *Presbyterianism*

Covenant Buddy Dinners:

Wednesday, November 29: 5:30pm, meet in room 102.

Special Events:

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, 7pm, St. Andrews

Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School classes on Sunday November 26 for the Thanksgiving weekend.

Something

November

Church

Inter-generational

Holiday Care Packages

Join in the fun of filling holiday care packages for our youth members away at college and in the military. We still need more large shoe boxes and goodies to pack into the boxes for 50 eager recipients. Young people who have received these boxes in the past have been delighted to be remembered by their church family. As the holidays approach and students begin the dreaded countdown to final exams we can send our prayers and greetings to cheer them up! Dick Massaro told me recently that the Presbyterian Church has the largest number of young adults that leave the church than other denominations. Let's remind our young people that our church cares about them, supports them and wants their continued connection to our church family.

What you can do to help...

Donate (by Sunday, Nov 12th):

Large shoe boxes to pack goodies in

An assortment of small, fun things to include in the packages (ideas below)

Wrapping paper to line boxes with

Ziploc bags to pack cookies in

Money for postage

Write notes, cards and messages of greeting to enclose

Bake or make cookies or caramels/corn (check with Norane Stejskal of

Congregational Care to volunteer

Wrap & Pack the boxes during

Wednesday, November 15, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Youth News & Events

Thought for the Month

The heaviest thing to carry is a grudge!

High School Youth Group: 6:30pm, Youth Room

Wednesday, November 8: *Bonfire*

Wednesday, November 29: *Smoothie Contest*

Middle School Youth Group: 4pm, Youth Room

Wednesday, November 1: *Games*

Wednesday, November 15: *Me Quero Tacos!*

Presbyterian Youth Triennium!!

All youth who will be 15-19 years of age as of July 2007 are invited to an informational meeting on **Sunday, November 19 at 6:30pm** in the fellowship hall. The week of July 17-22, 2007 we will travel to Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN and join 5000 other youth from all over the country for an awesome week of fellowship, worship, Bible study, great fun and memories that will last a lifetime. The deadline to register is December 1, so please come to the informational meeting and find out all the details of the trip. It's an amazing week and event - you won't want to miss it! Any adults wishing to chaperone should attend this informational meeting!

Worship

All-saints' Sunday Banners

On November 5th we will celebrate the lives of the Saints of this church who have died during the past year and now live with God. Those remembered are: Duane Amundson, Marian Amundson, Joe Anderson, Anne Crowder, Cleo Kruger, Harriet McCartney, Reathie MacLean, Esther McIlwain, Jeanne Westfield Miller, Royal Oyster, Mildred Rodenz, Lois Slatton, Lily Troop, and Marie Zasada

Thanks to Glenna Alstad for creating this year's banners.

Community Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 22, 2006 - 7 PM at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

Once again you are invited to join with your Christian brothers and sisters to thank God for the blessings we have been given. The service will begin at 7 PM and will include choirs and ministers from participating churches. We invite you to bring an offering of food for the Grand Rapids Food Shelf or money for the Second Harvest Food Bank. This is always an exhilarating service of thanksgiving and we hope you will include it in your plans for the holidays. The service ends with a pie, ice cream, and coffee social time. We will need to supply five pies for that evening.

Lenten Devotional

In preparation for the season of Lent, the Worship Committee would like to create a Lenten Devotional Book for the congregation's use. They are looking for people who would be willing to write a message for each of the 40 days during Lent, which begins in mid-February.

The writings do not need to be lengthy or lofty in thought, but from the heart. They can be based on favorites parts of Scripture or other reading you have seen.

Members of the Worship Committee will be submitting some of their own writings. They encourage members of the Session and other committees to also contribute to this devotional book, along with other members of the congregation.

Please contact Dan, Andy David or the church office if you are interested in participating in this project.

Congregational Care

Fall Rummage Sale Successful

The Presbyterian Women raised \$766.00 at their fall rummage sale. These monies are used to pay for mission projects funded by the Presbyterian Women. Thanks to those who contributed goods, who bought things, and those who helped clean up afterwards.

Bell Choir Bake Sale

Do you need some baked good or other treats for Thanksgiving weekend? Let the CPC bell choirs come to your rescue! We will be having a bake sale on **Sunday, November 19 after both worship services in the Fellowship Hall.** We will have a variety of pies, cookies, bars, candy, jams and jellies and other items for sale. Proceeds will go toward funding handbell festivals taking place next spring and summer. Be sure to stop by and check out the goodies.

Thanksgiving Food Bags

We continue our long tradition of remembering the hungry at Thanksgiving. On November 20, we will pass out grocery bags with a suggested shopping list and ask that you fill the bags and bring them either to the Thanksgiving Eve Service (7PM) at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church or to Community Presbyterian Church on November 27th.



Thanks to the Fall Cleanup Crew

Many thanks to the Ted and Donna Waech, Len Brown, Kathy Schneider, Warren Kirsch, Denny Schaar, Dennis Brandon, and David Marshall for the giving of their time and muscles to clean our church grounds. Thank You!

Congregational Meeting - November 19

Session has called a congregational meeting for November 19th at 10:00 am. The purpose of the meeting is to approve terms of call for the pastor and associate pastor. The congregation will also receive the 2007 budget.

Mission

Grace House

Grace House has been open for five months. Thanks to all of you who have taken the training and volunteered for shifts so far. Our church along with St. Augustine's will be staffing Grace house during Thanksgiving Week (Nov.19-Nov. 26). We hope more of you will take the training and be ready to volunteer.

Seventy (70) guests have been served at Grace House From May 21 through mid-October. Seventy eight percent of these have been Itasca County residents.

Five couples, nine families, twenty-seven single men and nine women have been guests. Upon leaving Grace House fifty-seven percent of the guests have found work, gotten apartments and enrolled in college. All were appreciative of a warm bed and meal.

Did you know that from now until Nov. 22 you can round up your grocery bill for Grace House at Cub and Ogle's? If your bill is \$43.28 ask the cashier to round up to \$44.00 or the nearest dollar and donate the change to Grace House.

The Grace House Board and Staff are working on obtaining a permanent place for Grace House as well as a place for guests to stay during the day. If you can volunteer or want to know more about Grace House, call Anne Amundson at 326-2609.

Reserve the Date! Saturday, December 2, 2006

The 4th Annual St. Nicholas Dinner will be held December 2, 2006. ACT has been asked to once again host an evening of fine food and friendly frivolity, featuring your pastors as pranksters, along with Christmas music and a special appearance by the good Saint himself. Jamie and Renee Perrington of Wyld Thyme, Too will prepare a gourmet dinner for your eating pleasure. All proceeds will benefit Action through Churches Together.

We have two young men interested in the Grand Rapids CPC Christmas International House Program this year.

Mr. Zhengwei Hu who is 22 years old and attends Wharton College, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. His major is Finance and his home country is China. He will graduate and return to his home country in January 2007

Mr. Sho Eshita is 19 years old and attends the University of Central Oklahoma. His major is Theater Arts and his home country is Japan. He will graduate and return to his home country in December 2009.

If you would like to host a college student, one week or two, please contact Mary Schnell by calling her at home 327-8020 or at work 327-6743.

FAC Update

The Facilities Assessment Committee continues to meet to explore three options for our church space.

Option One, which entails repairing the necessities, has been completed with the assistance of the trustees and is awaiting a cost estimate from Hawk Construction.

Option Two, a major remodel with additional space added to our existing building, has been the focus of many months. The committee will be completing this option soon and turning the plan over to Hawk Construction for a cost estimate.

Option Three, to build anew, is just beginning to be considered. Much of October and November will be devoted to this option.

The information gathered through small group meetings and the survey is being worked into all three options. The congregation expressed concerns over the inaccessibility of many areas of the church, insufficient gathering space, an unwelcoming entry area, a nursery that is hard to find, the chapel area is an awkward space, the parking lot needs to be fixed, lack of parking space and many others.

We are hoping to wrap up our work by early January with a report to Session. We post committee minutes and other information on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall. Contact a committee member if you have questions or concerns.

From the Treasurer

Peacemaking Raises \$ 1,376.11

Thanks to all who have contributed to the Peacemaking Offering. As of October 23 we have raised \$1,376.11. Our church keeps 25%, a total of \$344.02, to be used for our mission projects.

Sharing Out of Our Love, In Christ We Have Enough

We expect to receive more Estimate of Giving cards, but as of October 24 we have received a total of 172 cards totaling \$250,847. This is a \$6,798 increase from the current year.

Charitable Contribution Changes

Non Cash Contributions - no deduction is allowed for used clothing and household goods donated after August 17, 2006, unless they are in "good" used condition. IRS will deny a charitable deduction for any contribution of minimal monetary value including used socks, undergarments etc.

Stricter Substantiation of Money Donations Starting 2007

To claim a deduction, a donor needs a canceled check, bank record, or receipt from the donee listing the organization's name, the date, and the amount of the contribution. A log is no longer sufficient so please save your quarterly statements.

IRA distributions by those age 70½ and older can be given directly to charities which avoids taxation on the distributions. If you would like more information on any of these items, please see Phyllis.