



Light from the Tower

THE NEWSLETTER OF

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

“A COMMUNITY WITH CHRIST AT THE CENTER.”

ESTABLISHED 1812

September 2011

The mission of historic First Church is to bring diverse people of metropolitan Buffalo together to follow Jesus Christ through worshiping God, fostering spiritual growth and serving the community.

AN EPISTLE FROM PHIL TO ALL THE SAINTS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

What an amazing month September is shaping up to be for First Presbyterian Church. Beginning on September 11 we'll not only celebrate New Life Sunday, but take a moment to remember the tragedy of September 11, 2001. In worship we'll sing a newly written hymn for the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, and we'll ponder our responses to these and other terrible acts.

Also on September 11 we'll share in a special event as we eat together after worship and then we can go over to the Theodore Roosevelt Inauguration museum together. Look for details of the day in another section of this newsletter.

In addition to going back into the sanctuary, beginning Sunday school, and going back to the fall worship schedule, we are preparing for the very special concert to be given in our sanctuary on September 26 at 8:00 p.m. Personally, I am astounded at the generosity of so many people who have put this event together. The musicians of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra surprised and delighted everyone with the offer of this concert. Members of our church have been joined by others from our community like Polla Milligan, Stephanie Berghash, Kevin Cunningham, Liz Kolken and others to put together an event what will be a beautiful and memorable beginning to our fund raising effort to insure the historical preservation and maintenance of the building. I hope you'll make a special effort to attend.

As we celebrate our 200th anniversary this year, I pray that you will not only make special efforts to join us for worship and mission as well as for the special events of this banner year in our church life. Most of all, I invite you to pray with me, for one another, as we continue to seek God's will for our church together. May God bless you as we begin a new program year together.

Grace, and Peace,

Phil



WORSHIP THIS FALL

Every week at First Presbyterian Church we try to worship God in ways that will glorify God and deepen our personal faith relationships. September of 2011 is no exception. Take a look at just a few things that will be happening:

September 11-Welcome Back Sunday: As we welcome everyone back from summer trips and enjoyment we begin a new worship year with a service that will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks and help us focus on the ways God wants us to go into the future. As part of our worship service we will also sing a new hymn written especially for the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. The Sermon will be from Matthew 18:21-35 and is called, "Doing the Impossible Task in Impossible Times" and we will share together the sacrament of Holy Communion.

September 18: The parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard may be the hardest parable that Jesus ever told. It challenges us to ponder the meaning of work, or fair pay, and of service to God and other humans. As we think about this parable, found in Matthew 20, we'll listen for God's message to us.

September 25: Faith is about living differently and thinking in new ways. Paul certainly did that in his letter to the Philippians, and on this Sunday morning we'll read from Philippians 2: 1-13 and find out something about completing another person's joy as well as working out our salvation together.

Sunday School Registration Form

Please complete the following form and return it to Janet Hill's mailbox in the Church Office.

Parent's Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: (home) _____ (cell) _____ (work) _____

Email: _____@_____

Children in Sunday School:

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____ Grade in September _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____ Grade in September _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____ Grade in September _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____ Grade in September _____

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE FAITH

FALL 2011 ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



ADULT CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

Sunday morning Christian Education for Adults at First Presbyterian Church has been undergoing some interesting changes lately. We've expanded our offerings and will continue to do so in the fall. Please take time to learn and grow together.

Sunday mornings: "The Book of Revelation" is our discussion topic for the early part of the fall. We'll begin at 9:30 a.m. and work through this fascinating and important book of the New Testament. While we did start this class in the summer, scheduling issues got in the way of doing much with it, so we are doing a fresh start and going into the amazing images and stories through which God is trying to speak to us in these last chapters of our Bible.

Wednesday Afternoons: Meeting from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the pastor's office, this study group is beginning a study of the book of Isaiah. This wonderful book contains many important sayings by which God has tried to communicate with us all. The group is always enthusiastic and a great group to join if you haven't been in a Bible study of late. So come and join us!!

Thursday Evenings: At 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays the Pastor's Office is the place to be if you want to share in some wonderful scripture discussions. For much of the fall we will be studying the Gospel of Mark. Mark is the shortest of the gospels, but still has many wonderful and mysterious things to teach us. Mark is also the main gospel text for the new church year that begins during Advent, so we will be hearing a lot about Mark in sermons during 2012. That makes this study even more fun and important for us all.

Please join your friends and study God's word together.

Women's Book Club Gathering



The Women's Book Club will meet on
Wednesday, September 28
at 6:00 PM
at the home of Karen Stephenson.

We will gather for a potluck meal and
discussion of the book

The Mighty Queens of Freeville
by Amy Dickenson.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SURVEY of the CONGREGATION

1. Sunday School teachers are looking for a way to increase instructional time. Would you support:

Children and youth remaining in worship only on the first Sunday of the month (Communion Sunday). The Children's Message would be offered on this Sunday only. Children would go directly to their classrooms on the other three or four Sundays each month.

Leave the program as it is currently designed

Other suggestion(s) to give teachers more time with children

2. Would you be willing to volunteer in your child(ren)'s classroom two or three times a year?

yes

no

3. Would you be interested in the opportunity to network with other parents to learn more about the Sunday School curriculum, to become more involved in the children's CE program at FPC and to explore ways to share the faith journeys of other families?

yes

no

4. Would you be interested in attending, with your child(ren), a workshop to explain Communion to young people?

yes

no

5. Would you be interested in attending an in-depth Bible study for adults this coming program year. This would be 35-week course that involves class time plus additional preparation time at home. Probable days are Sunday or Thursday from 7-9:30 PM.

yes preferred day _____

no

I need more information

I have questions. Please call _____ at _____ so I can discuss them.

Please return this survey to the church office by September 30th. Thank you.

The Deacons cordially invite



our Saints 75 years and over
to the

Senior Luncheon

Saturday, September 24th at 11:00 a.m.

Join us for a Worship service and Communion
followed by a wonderful luncheon.

Saints are welcome to bring a friend, relative or care-giver.
Transportation can be arranged by calling the Church Office.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 21st, by calling the
Church Office at 884-7250, ext. 10.



We look forward
to seeing you!

200
for the
200th



Help the Bicentennial Committee collect 200 canned goods for our Geri Lyon Food Pantry during the month of September. Donations may be placed in the shopping cart in the Sanctuary. Thank you!

Women's Association Luncheon & Program

Would you like a retreat to Stella Niagara, completely paid?! Then come hear our September speaker, Teresa Maciocha (Rev. John Long's wife). She will tell us about the Women's Respite Program.

Wednesday, September 21st at 12:00 PM in the Chapel Luncheon with program to follow.

Please make a reservation with the Church Office by Tuesday, September 20th at 884-7250, ext. 10.

See you there!



Bookkeeper's Corner

AUGUST 2011 FINANCIAL ITEMS	Actual YTD Aug. 31, 2011	Actual YTD Aug. 31, 2010
Total Income	\$281,506	\$251,778
Total Expenses	\$449,533	\$310,946
Deficit support from the Endowment	\$109,990	\$97,390
HIGHLIGHTS	Actual YTD Aug. 30, 2011	Actual YTD Aug. 31, 2010
Pledge Income	\$172,889	\$149,356
Plate Income	\$8,143	\$9,199
Building Use Income	\$21,977	\$9,433



BPO Musicians to Perform Benefit Concert

Hear the Musicians of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra perform a benefit concert for historic preservation of Buffalo's oldest congregation, First Presbyterian Church.

Monday, September 26, 2011

at First Presbyterian Church

Doors open at 6:00 PM for a silent auction, raffle & entertainment

Concert at 8:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Wine and hors d'oeuvres served

Performance by *Friends of Harmony*

Free parking at the church and Kleinhans Music Hall

A suggested donation of \$30 for adults or \$25 for students & seniors 65+ is requested.

Tickets available at the door, by calling the BPO Box Office

at (716) 885-5000 or online at <http://tickets.bpo.org>.

Proceeds from the performance will benefit

*historic preservation efforts for First Presbyterian's building,
the E.B. Green-designed masterpiece located on Symphony Circle.*



EST. 1812

One Symphony Circle ▪ Buffalo, New York 14201-1213

(716) 884-7250 ▪ email@firstchurchbuffalo.org

www.firstchurchbuffalo.org



BPO Musicians Benefit Concert

How YOU can help!

On Monday, September 26th, the musicians of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra are performing a benefit concert as a fundraiser for the preservation of our building. We need everyone's help to make the most of this generous act. Here are some ways that you can help:

Help us promote the concert! Posters are available in the Narthex. Take one (or two or three), give them to a friend, post them in a coffee shop or community bulletin board.

Donate a silent auction item or things for a themed basket raffle. Help us acquire restaurant gift certificates, artwork, etc. for the raffle and auction that evening. Know a friend who owns a restaurant? Ask him/her for a favor for a worthy cause!

Volunteer that evening! We need people to serve as docents, help with set up and clean up, take tickets, and much more! Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

Attend the concert! Tickets are available through the BPO Box Office or by calling Christina Trachtenberg in the Church Office. While the suggested donation is \$30, we know that not everybody can afford to pay that, and the important thing is to have you here. So pay what you can, and come enjoy an evening of music in our beautiful sanctuary.

Help make beautiful music by sharing your time and talent!

Bicentennial Concerts

Our Bicentennial celebrations are officially underway!

Save the date for these exciting concerts below.

Vocalis Chamber Choir

October 23, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

For the first time, Buffalo's premier acapella chamber choir brings their exquisitely sculpted sound to the ambient acoustics of First Church. The program will consist of a variety of selections of the accapella repertoire. Free-will donation at the door.

Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra "Viva Vivaldi" Series

November 27, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m.

Maestra Marylouise Nanna brings the Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra "home" for a concert in their 33rd season which always includes a concert at First Church. Expect a concert of Vivaldi (of course) but also some vicarious visionaries and even a few surprises. Suggested donation at the door.



Remember the 4 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair

This month our students will be returning to school. Getting ready to go back to school can bring a lot of mixed emotions and it can have some green-minded parents shaking their head over the sheer amount of items (clothes, shoes, school supplies) that their children seem to need to buy each year. Even when you home school you typically still buy some new items because this is when school supplies are readily available and on sale. This month I have some **BACK TO SCHOOL SUGGESTIONS** for the students:

- Before starting a new school year, sort through your school supplies. Many can be reused or recycled. Recycle unwanted papers and reuse your old notebooks, folders and binders. Share your used books with friends, relatives, or younger schoolchildren.
- Did you know that in the U.S. alone, approximately 11,600 cedar trees are cut down to create the 2 billion pencils made each year?
- If you buy new items choose and use a wide assortment of products made from recycled products, binders made from old shipping boxes; and many types of recycled paper products. You can also reuse items like rechargeable batteries, and scrap paper for notes. Choose school supplies with as little packaging as possible. (30% of the waste in our landfills comes from product packaging)
- Use nontoxic products, inks and art supplies, such as batteries with less mercury, vegetable-based inks, and water-based paints. (Read the labels)
- Research the most eco-friendly computers. Laptops use up to 50% less energy than traditional desktop computers.
- Start shopping for used textbooks. They are cheaper than brand new volumes. Secondhand books help reduce the 20 million trees which are cut down every year to manufacture books sold in the United States. This single act can help the reduction in green house gases used to manufacture and transport those new books.
- Information from the Center for Health, Environment & Justice states that many children's school supplies (such as backpacks and binders) are often made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC or vinyl)—a toxic plastic that is dangerous to our health from production, during use, and at time of disposal.
- Look for PVC-free materials in raincoats, rain boots, prints on clothing, and accessories such as handbags, jewelry and belts.
- If you bring your lunch to school, package it in reusable containers instead of disposable ones, and carry them in a reusable cloth bag, or a metal lunch box. Many plastic lunch boxes are made of or lined with PVC. Bring drinks in a thermos instead of disposable bottles or cartons.
- If you buy lunch from the cafeteria, take and use only what you need: One napkin, one ketchup packet, one salt packet, one pepper packet, one set of flatware. Also, remember to recycle your cans and bottles.
- If you drive to school, try carpooling or take public transportation. Get your parents' permission to try walking, biking, or skating. You can prevent wasted fuel, reduce air pollution, and decrease traffic in your community.
- Pass it on. Share the message with your friends and schoolmates. Waste less by reducing, reusing, and recycling. Don't be shy about letting people know that you are trying to make some small changes to improve our environment. Volunteer for, or start, an environmental club or recycling project in your community, church or school.

For a Waste-Less School Year there are so many things you can do to become an even better world citizen.

'Heaven belongs to the Lord alone, but he gave the earth to man' Psalm 115:16.

Join us in treasuring our precious gift from the Lord?

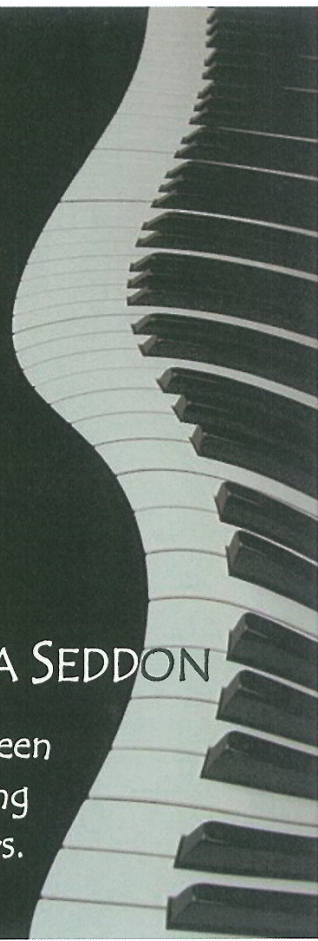
Together we can make a difference!
Lesley Haynes - peacesojourner@yahoo.com

A Benefit Concert

BACH TO BRUBECK

WITH PIANIST, KRISTA SEDDON

Making the connections between classical and jazz and providing narration about the composers.



when:
friday, oct 7, 2011

time:
7 pm

where:
**the chapel at
trinity church
371 delaware ave
buffalo**

tickets:
**choose an amount from
\$10 minimum to \$30 or
more to help more!**

advance sales:
**contact terry
877-6896**

Payment: Choose an amount from \$10 minimum to \$30. More always helps!
Light refreshment after the concert.
Accepting cash or checks payable to Vive, Inc.

Note: To preserve the intimate setting, seating is limited to 100.
Please buy your tickets in advance . Mail your check and specify how many seats we should reserve. VIVE, 50 Wyoming Ave., Buffalo, NY 14215.

Questions? Contact Terry, 877-6896.

Concert to benefit VIVE la Casa and Trinity Church. VIVE is the largest refugee shelter in the United States. Since 1984, VIVE has served more than 80,000 asylum seekers from 106 countries. VIVE is the only organization in the country with the primary focus of serving refugees as they begin the process of seeking asylum.

Trinity Church is a metropolitan house of prayer for all; a center of worship and spiritual inquiry. The buildings are historic, as is the record of helping the community outside its doors.

News in the Family

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of Isabel Smith and Betty Hamlin, both long-time First Church members who recently passed away.



Did you spot the Darby Family in the "Around Town" pages of the September issue of Buffalo Spree? Check it out!

Also, look for an article about First Church in the October issue of Buffalo Spree! We're very excited!



Read all about Gretchen Kamke's many adventures in Peru, and the many children she helped at: <http://gretchenk.blog.com>.



- Olga Rico-Armesto
- Mark Juan Armesto
- Jose Gomez
- Erika Grande
- Susan Koeppel
- Stephanie Lipnicki
- Tina Osei
- Isabel Smith
- Michael Smith
- Miriam Swanson
- Jessica Henry
- El Schneiderman
- Ken Madell

"Sermon 2030"

Sig Art
Illustrated by Sig Potembski



First Church Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
September 4 10:00 AM — Worship, Quinton Meyer preaching 11:00 AM — Fellowship Time	5 LABOR DAY (Staff Holiday) BUILDING CLOSED	6
11 NEW LIFE SUNDAY 11:00 AM — Worship & Communion, Rev. Dr. Gittings 11:15 AM — Sunday School 12:00 PM — Fellowship Time	12 BUILDING CLOSED 6:30 PM — Stewardship Committee Mtg.	13 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 5:30 PM — Worship & Music Mtg. 6:00 PM — Christian Ed. Mtg 7:00 PM — Lands & Bldgs. Mtg.
18 9:30 AM — Adult Christian Education 11:00 AM — Worship, Rev. Dr. Gittings 11:15 AM — Sunday School 12:00 PM — Fellowship Time 12:15 PM — CMO Committee Meeting	19 BUILDING CLOSED	20 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 5:15 PM — Membership Mtg. 7:00 PM — FPC/LPC Discussion Committee Mtg.
25 9:30 AM — Adult Christian Education 11:00 AM — Worship, Rev. Dr. Gittings 11:15 AM — Sunday School 12:00 PM — Fellowship Time	26 ***** 6:00 PM — BPO Musicians' Benefit Concert <i>(see page 7 for details)</i>	27 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg.
October 2 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY PEACEMAKING OFFERING 9:30 AM — Adult Christian Education 11:00 AM — Worship & Communion, Quinton Meyer preaching 12:00 PM — Fellowship Time	October 3 BUILDING CLOSED	October 4 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 4:30 PM — Literacy tutoring 5:30 PM — Worship & Music Mtg. 7:00 PM — Lands & Bldgs. Mtg.

Rev. Phil Gittings will be out of the office for 2 weeks beginning Tuesday, September 27. Please call Quinton Meyer for pastoral care emergencies at 909-2259.

September 2011

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>7</p> <p>1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 2:00 PM — Church Life Mtg. 6:00 PM — P&A Committee Mtg 5:00 PM — BPO Planning Mtg. 7:00 PM — Deacons Mtg.</p>	<p>September 1</p> <p>7:00 PM — Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>BUILDING CLOSED</p>
	<p>8</p> <p>4:30 PM — 501c3 Meeting 7:00 PM — Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:30 PM — Flaherty/Przybylak Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:00 AM — Flaherty/Przybylak Wedding</p>
<p>14</p> <p>1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 5:00 PM — BPO Planning Mtg. 5:45 PM — Trustees' Mtg.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>4:30 PM — 501c3 Meeting 7:00 PM — Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>BUILDING CLOSED</p>
<p>21</p> <p>11:00 AM — Women's Association Board Mtg. 12:00 PM — Women's Association Luncheon & Program 1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 5:00 PM — BPO Planning Mtg. 7:00 PM — Session Mtg.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00 PM — Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11:00 AM — Senior Luncheon</p>
<p>28</p> <p>6:00 PM — Women's Book Club Gathering</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>October 1</p> <p>BUILDING CLOSED</p>
<p>October 5</p> <p>2:00 PM — Church Life Mtg. 4:30 PM — Literacy tutoring 6:00 PM — P&A Committee Mtg 7:00 PM — Deacons Mtg.</p>	<p>October 6</p>	<p>October 7</p>	<p>October 8</p> <p>BUILDING CLOSED</p>

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION AND TRUSTEES BY CLASS AND TERM

Clerk of Session

Janet Hill

Associate Clerk of Session

Joan Close

Class of 2012

JoAnn Doerr (2)

Jean Hess (1)

Janet Hill (1)

Don Houck (T) (1)

Quinton Meyer (1)

Roger Woodard (2)

Class of 2013

Ian Bradford (T) (1)

Summer Flaherty (T) (2)

Norm Gibbon (T) (2)

Mike Henry (1)

Henry Porter (T) (2)

William Schulz (2)

Class of 2014

Mark Armesto (T) (1)

Carlton Brownell (T) (2)

John Darby (T) (2)

Lauren Hill (2)

Marv Riegler (2)

Erica Wichtowski (1)

(T) indicates that the Elder has also been elected to serve as a Trustee while on Session.

BOARD OF DEACONS BY CLASS AND TERM

Class of 2012

Gregg Borland (2)

Jessica Laudisio (1)

Madeline Mason (2)

Judith Paradzai (1)

Lovelace Quarshie (2)

Phil Sims (1)

Denis Wettlaufer (1)

Class of 2013

Mark Juan Armesto (1)

Debra Byrne (2)

José Gomez (1)

Susan Koepfel (1)

Alexander Lipnicki (1)

Stephanie Lipnicki (1)

Suzanne Snyder (2)

Class of 2014

Pat Brown (1)

Russell Carlson (2)

Mary Field (2)

*Karen Frieder (2)

Maria Murphy (2)

Olga Rico-Armesto (1)

Lou Ann Luther Riegler (1)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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(Across from Kleinhans)

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www.firstchurchbuffalo.org

email@firstchurchbuffalo.org

Twitter: @1stChurchBflo

"Like" us on Facebook!

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

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RevPhil@firstchurchbuffalo.org

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The Reverend John Long, D.D.

Parish Associate for Community Outreach

JohnRLong17@verizon.net

The Reverend Jack Smiley, *Pastor Emeritus*

Dr. David Bond, *Organist/Choirmaster, Bookkeeper*

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Tom Hollfelder, *Custodian/Security Guard*

Church Office, extension 10

For pastoral care concerns,
call Quinton Meyer,
Associate for Pastoral Visitation
909-2259 (Cell)

To reach Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings, Interim
Pastor, call 884-7250, ext. 13 (Office)
548-0466 (Cell)