

CHIMES

MAY 2010

A newsletter for Members and Friends of **Memorial Presbyterian Church**

Published monthly *except for July*

803 East College Avenue ▪ Appleton, WI 54911 ▪ (920) 734-1787

Visit our website at www.MemorialPresbyterianAppleton.org

10:00 a.m. Year 'Round Worship Service to Begin

Have you ever wondered who worships at the “other service”? Maybe you have had to choose between fellowship and adult education class? Or maybe you missed a baptism, reception of new members, children’s choir or special music offered at the other service? Your problem has been solved! Based on a recommendation by the Worship Action Group, Session decided at its April meeting to move to one service permanently beginning this September.

Memorial Church has talked for awhile about possibly moving to one service throughout the year. Traditionally, we have had two services on Sunday during the academic year, and over the Memorial Day Weekend we moved to one service during the summer, as the attendance figures do not justify two services in the summer. But this has also become true during the academic year as well. The rule of thumb in ministry is that when the sanctuary reaches 80% of its capacity, its numbers will not increase. Memorial has not been at 80% capacity for over ten years.

Too often we hear from members and leadership that they do not get to see the people who attend the other service. Results from last year’s survey support these concerns and reality. In an interim time, such as we are going through, it is good for the congregation to worship and fellowship together on a regular basis. It builds and supports community.

The question of volunteer stewardship is also a concern. It takes a lot of people to cover greeters, ushers, special music, bells, choir, readers, communion servers and the like. The demands are great and it continues to be a struggle to meet these needs. Moving to one service will allow us to pool our human resources together and make the best use of people’s time, talents and treasures.

The sanctuary can handle the numbers. If there are special times in the year (i.e. Easter, Christmas Eve)

where greater numbers are anticipated, then we will simply add another worship service for that occasion. If the time comes when the worship attendance has grown to fill the sanctuary to overflowing, then leadership may consider two services again.

Parking is an issue to address. Whether we have one or two services, parking is always an issue. Part of the answer to that challenge is to create more space near the entrance for those who are less mobile and those with special needs. People can drop off individuals at the door and park a bit farther away. For those of us who are hale and hardy, we can probably afford to walk a bit!

One problem that existed with our current schedule was that education and fellowship happened at the same time. Adults needed to choose between education and fellowship. The survey indicated that adults desired more learning opportunities for themselves. One could not do both on Sunday morning. The new schedule will allow everyone to enjoy all three parts of the morning (study, fellowship and worship).

So here is what our new Sunday morning schedule will be:

Summer schedule beginning on May 30, 2010:

- One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m., followed by fellowship on front porch.
- No Sunday School.

School year schedule beginning September 2010:

- Education for all ages from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.
- Fellowship Time in Parlor from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.
- Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Session and staff are excited about this new venture. We believe it will strengthen our worship, study and

fellowship life together. As fall moves upon us, leadership will continue to inform you of how you can make this new venture succeed for all. If you

have questions at this time, please do not hesitate to contact a Session member or staff. We look forward to this new opportunity together.

News of Our Members and Friends

Our many sympathies go out to Karl and Sara Ver Burg and their family, on the passing of Karl's grandfather, Gerrit Van Kampen, on Thursday, April 15. Gerrit, age 87, passed away peacefully after a long illness. He and his wife, Nelva, had recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. A celebration of his life and work was held on April 19th in his hometown in Michigan.

The Memorial Church family sends our deepest condolences to Judy Gaines and her family, on the passing of her husband, Fred. Fred, who retired

several years ago from Lawrence University, was well known for his work in theatre as a writer and director, and for sharing his passion for writing with countless students. In his retirement years, Fred enjoyed teaching playwriting and acting at the Renaissance School for the Arts in Appleton and collaborating in productions and writing workshops at the Oneida Reservation. He especially found satisfaction working with men and women at the Outagamie County Jail as a writing teacher. Our hearts and prayers go out to the Gaines family as they mourn their loss.

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting to act on Pastor Sara Ver Burg's request for the dissolution of her pastoral relationship with Memorial Presbyterian Church has

been called by the Session for Sunday, May 2, 2010, at 12:00 noon.

News from Pastor Sara

The Session, at its meeting on April 13th, accepted with understanding Pastor Sara's request for dissolution of the pastoral relationship between herself and MPC. There will be a called congregational meeting at 12:00 noon on Sunday, May 2, immediately following the second service, for the congregation to approve the dissolution of their pastoral relationship. Sara's last Sunday with us will be on June 13 when we will have our annual Worship in the Park to celebrate her ministry with us. Her last day in the office will be on

Tuesday, June 15, with her last effective day being Wednesday, June 30.

Parents of young children so often must choose between work and family, and Pastor Sara has chosen to spend more time focusing on her family with their daughter, Ani, fast approaching the age of 4. We hope that in the next few weeks you will take the time to stop by and wish Pastor Sara well on her new adventure as a full-time mom and to thank her for her loving presence in our midst over the last two years.

Attention Graduates and Proud Families!

On Sunday, June 6th, we will be recognizing all the students in the MPC family who are graduating. If anyone in your family is graduating or has graduated since last June, from either high school, technical school, professional school, college, or graduate school, please contact the church office at 734-1787 by May 14. We would like to know the

name of your student, the school or program he or she attended, the degree earned, and his or her future plans, if known. Even if you think we already have this information, please call and confirm it with us. We'd hate to leave anyone out or list incorrect information!!

New Members to MPC

We are pleased to welcome three new members into our church family. Gene and Tammy Johnson and their children Marley, age 7, and Garrett, age 5, were members of the Northkirk new church development prior to coming to Memorial. Bea Hanna, a long-

time resident of Appleton, is transferring from Trinity Lutheran Church. These are interesting, talented folks who will bring many gifts to our common ministry. Introduce yourselves to them and make some new friends!

Parents Groups

Our parents' groups are planning fun and interesting play dates for May. If you'd like to receive notifications of their upcoming events via Facebook, please contact the church office at 734-1787.

Parents 2 will have two play dates in May: May 11th will be at the Podlasek home and May 25th will be in

City Park in Appleton. We gather at 9:30 a.m. and are eager to welcome new families. Call Hope Atwater, 257-4278, or Lori Cramer, 788-9965, for directions.

The Weekenders will meet at Derks Park at 10:00 a.m. on May 15th. Derks Park is located off Kensington Road, south of College Avenue.

Book Reviews

***Christianity for the Rest of Us*, by Diana Butler Bass.** Evangelical, mega-churches seem to get so much media attention these days that one almost forgets that there are other, equally faithful ways to be a Christian church. This book offers a look at several smaller, mainline churches that are thriving as

they redefine what it means to be a community of faith. This book is recommended by Good News Women who comment "It tells how your church can take steps to go forward in the process." This book can be checked out from our church library. Its call number is 280.4 BAS.

Senior High Work Trip Fundraising

Rockin' Out in Rockford! Invest in the Senior High Work Trip to Rockford, Illinois! For a donation of \$20, you will receive a "stock certificate", a handwritten postcard from Rockford, an invitation to the "stockholder" dinner and presentation, and a copy of the group's journal. Senior High youth will be in the Narthex on May 2nd, May 16th, and June 6th. Thank you for your support!



Senior Highs have photographed the legs of some of our most venerable members and will be posting them on the bulletin board outside the church office, beginning May 2nd. Vote for your favorite set(s) of legs by throwing your loose change in one (or more) of the buckets. (We will accept bills, too!) We will announce the winning legs - and identify their owners - at the church picnic on June 13.

Stepping Towards Rockford Fundraiser – The

Vacation Bible School

Parents! Mark your calendars for this summer's Vacation Bible School program. It will be held in the mornings, the week of August 2 through 6, here at MPC. Our theme is *Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace*. Our program is aimed for three year olds though children who have completed fifth grade. We will be setting up an Egyptian marketplace

and will have a Bible storyteller teaching the children the story of Joseph. We encourage MPC children and their friends to attend, and we need lots of youth and adult helpers to make it run smoothly. Jill McElhaney is the coordinator. Call her if you have any questions or would like to help.

Are you good with numbers?

Do you typically get your checkbook to balance? Do you like working behind the scenes? Then you have the very talents we need to help with a very important ministry - counting the Sunday offering.

We currently have six teams who rotate throughout the year. We have openings in two of our teams and we'd like to put a few more teams into the rotation. New volunteers would be trained by experienced counters and everyone has clear, written instructions for reference. On any given Sunday, it takes about 1-1/2 hours to record the donations, count the money, and deposit it in the bank. Typically, this work goes

on immediately following the worship service, although arrangements can be made with the office to count at a time that is more convenient.

Just 1-1/2 hours every six to eight weeks is all it takes to make sure our contributions are recorded and deposited in a timely fashion so the money can be put to use furthering the ministry and mission of Memorial Presbyterian Church. If this important and responsible ministry sounds like an opportunity you would consider, please contact Linda Boldt at 734-1787 for further information.

Hands and Feet of God

It's been five months since Pastor Baker arrived to serve as our interim pastor and guide us through this period of transition. From my vantage point, it's been a whirlwind of activity. Christmas came and went with all of its usual activity. January was all about writing and compiling annual reports and financial statements. February brought a full-day leadership retreat exploring the Five Developmental Tasks and the formation of a Visioning Task Force. In March, a Youth Action Group was formed. April saw the completion of the Lenten Soup Suppers, Palm Sunday, Easter, and Holy Week services, as well as a decision to move to one worship service.

Throughout, Pastor Baker has led the way, challenging us to step forward with willing hands and feet to further the ministry of this church; to take responsibility for envisioning and crafting our church's future; to build and exercise healthy

relationships among ourselves; and to be the best Presbyterians we can be. Those in leadership positions have been working harder and longer than ever, but I hope, with a growing sense of accomplishment and optimism.

The wisdom and discernment that went into the decision to bring Pastor Baker to Memorial cannot, to my mind, be overstated. The committee listened with great perception to the aching, longing hearts of the congregation and to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in seeking out and calling just the right person for this congregation in this time and place. To those individuals, Carol Bloemer, Lisa Lux, and Mark Spindler, who conducted the search process for our interim pastor, we offer our heartfelt thanks and deepest appreciation. You have been the Hands and Feet of God for Memorial. – *Linda Boldt, Lay Ministry Coordinator*

Scholarships for Synod School

The Winnebago Presbytery has scholarships available for those attending Synod School this coming July in Storm Lake, Iowa. Scholarship amounts are \$100 for individuals, \$180 for couples and \$220 for families of

three or more. Applications are in the church office (see Paula) or on the Winnebago Presbytery website. Applications need to be into the Presbytery office by June 1.

Warming Shelter

Thank you to the 22 volunteers from MPC who joined 22 more from Emmanuel United Methodist Church to work at the Fox Valley Warming Shelter from March 21-27th. MPC partnered with Emmanuel United Methodist to provide meals and temporary

lodging for homeless individuals. Based on our experience at the Warming Shelter, homelessness has increased in the Fox Cities. Last year, the number of guests averaged 11 per night. This year, we served on average 24 people each evening.

Welcoming Walls



Greetings and welcome to all our visitors and friends! We hope you find our fellowship to be a welcoming community in which to grow in and live out your faith.

To help you learn more about us, we have created a three-part orientation program called Welcoming Walls. Each month, there is an opportunity to participate in at least two of these programs. Persons who complete the series are encouraged to consider becoming members of Memorial. Below is the schedule of upcoming programs. If you would like to participate in any of these events, please contact Linda Boldt in the church office at 734-1787 or laymin@athenet.net.

The Tour - Sunday, May 16th at 9:45 a.m. or 12:00 Noon. Join us following the postlude of either service for a 15-minute explanation of the symbolism behind our architecture and furnishings

Memorial's Programs and Activities - Thursday, May 20th at 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor. Join us for a light supper with our lay leaders who will talk about the programs and activities we offer and how you might get involved.

Our Presbyterian Beliefs - Thursday, June 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor. Join us for a light supper, followed by a discussion about the beliefs and teachings of the Presbyterian Church.

Kinderchurch Helpers Needed

Our Kinderchurch program for three through seven year olds runs year 'round. We are looking for some summer leaders. Ellen Braatz, Christian Education Director, prepares the lessons and materials; you just

need to review the lessons and teach on Sunday mornings. If you can lead Kinderchurch for a few Sundays this summer, please contact Ellen at christianed@athenet.net.

He Walked Among Us

When God chose to reveal himself, he did so (surprises of surprises) through a human body. The tongue that called forth the dead was a human one. The hand that touched the leper had dirt under his nails. The feet upon which the woman wept were calloused and dusty. And his tears...oh, don't miss the tears...they came from a heart as broken as yours or mine has ever been. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses.

So, people came to him. My how they came to him. They came at night; they touched him as they walked down the street; they followed him around the sea; they invited him into their homes and placed their children at his feet. Why? Because he refused to be a

statue in a cathedral or a priest in an elevated pulpit. He chose instead to be Jesus.

We have just finished the season of Lent and celebrated the rising of Christ on Easter Sunday. We have completed the Lenten Sunday nights learning more about spiritual disciplines. We have just finished Holy Week with our celebrations starting with Maundy Thursday when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples to Easter Sunday when Jesus rose from the dead. We need to continue to celebrate this special man Jesus who died for us. Let us all continue to take some time each day to continue our spiritual awareness walk together. It could be a chapter from the Bible, our favorite reading for the day or whatever helps us to walk with that special person we call Jesus. -- *Your Deacon, Pat Spindler*

Summer Office Hours

*Summertime and the livin' is easy...*at least it will be on Fridays in June and July! To take advantage of summer weather and activities, the church office will be closed on Fridays from June 11 through July 30.

Mother-Daughter Tea

Have you ever been a Mother or a Daughter? If so, you are cordially invited to join us for an afternoon just for "the girls" on Saturday, May 8, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Come enjoy visiting with other MPC Mothers and Daughters while we do some fun things. Some of these include working on a scrapbooking project suitable for framing or putting in your own

scrapbook, listening to a reading by Kara, Morgan, and Peg Manuel, and browsing an exhibit of doll furniture belonging to Carol Bloemer. We'll even have refreshments! Please sign up in the narthex. If you have questions, call Nancy Umland at 725-5492. We hope to see you there!

Meet Your Deacon on Deacon Sunday

Sunday, May 2, is the day that members of the Board of Deacons will be up front and visible throughout both worship services, serving as greeters, ushers, and readers and also leading the "Time With

Children" portion. You'll also have the opportunity to meet them during the Fellowship Hour in between services during a special reception. Stop by and say hello!

Introducing New Children's Directors

Our new children's music directors, Erin Bryan and Derek Lynch, are already hard at work providing new music opportunities for our children. While Sara and Celesta spend a semester abroad, these wonderful Lawrence students have agreed to step in. Read their comments below, and then take the time in the next few weeks to say hello. They would love to get to know you!



Erin Bryan

"Originally hailing from Appleton, I am currently in my sophomore year at Lawrence shooting for majors in choral/general music education and vocal performance. I must admit that this opportunity at Memorial Presbyterian is particularly exciting for me, as my future plans are to

teach elementary and early childhood music. Along with singing, I enjoy playing piano and flute, and

while my guitar skills cannot match those of my counterpart, Derek, I also enjoy playing a 6-string. In my hours outside of the practice room, I enjoy cooking, reading, brewing tea, and watching Cary Grant films." -- Erin

"I am a Junior at Lawrence, originally from Green Bay, majoring in vocal performance and choral education. I love working with kids and plan on teaching choir at a high school or middle school before going getting my Master's and working at the college level. I play a little piano, guitar, and

percussion and would love to incorporate different instruments into the children's music program here. In my sparse time away from music, I like reading, running, the Packers, and drinking coffee." -- Derek



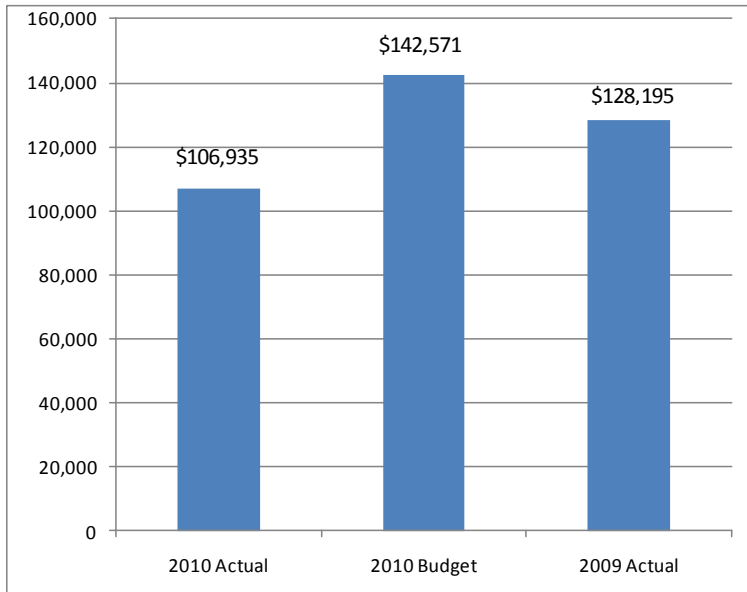
Derek Lynch

Sole Burner Race to Pass MPC on May 8th

From 8:45 – 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 8, runners participating in the Sole Burner Race will be passing Memorial Church (from their start time at City Park at 9:00 a.m.). During that brief period of time, you will find it difficult to cross College Avenue from the north to access the church. While this may be a bit

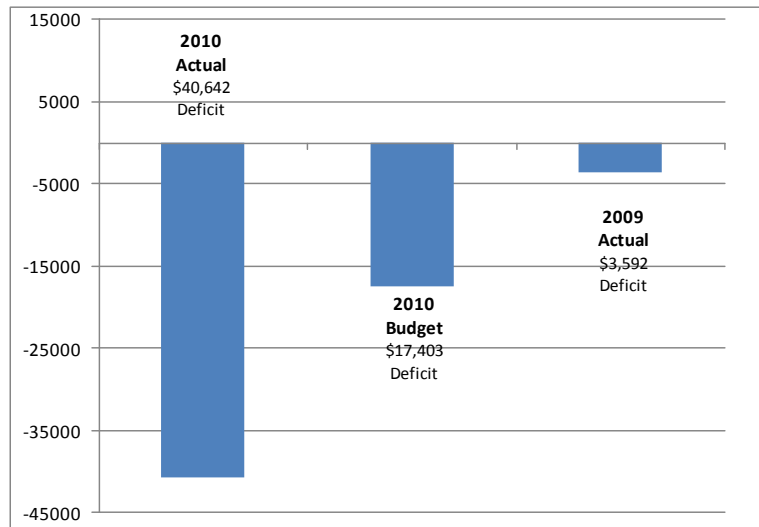
inconvenient, it will all benefit a great cause, as this race raises tens of thousands of dollars every year to benefit the American Cancer Society. So, if you're planning to stop at the church on that day, please plan accordingly. Thanks!

A Moment for Money



**Total Revenue
Received
January 1 through
March 31, 2010**

**Total Revenue Received
over Expenses
January 1 through
March 31, 2010**



As the above charts indicate, 2010 is starting off significantly under budget, and much lower than 2009. MPC needs your financial support in order to carry on the Mission, Education, Personnel and Member Nurture & Development that we, as the body of Christ in Appleton, Wisconsin, have committed to. Please do your part, and if you are able, prayerfully consider how you can financially support the work of the church. Feel free to call Kevin Loomans at 739-3417 with any questions, or to find out additional ways you can help during these challenging economic times.

Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost Offering is traditionally received on the day of Pentecost (this year, it is on May 23). It provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. Congregations are encouraged to keep 40 percent of the offering to support ministry with children at risk in their communities. This year we will be donating our local percentage to the Boys and Girls Club of the Fox Valley.



The General Assembly's portion (60 percent) provides leadership development opportunities for Presbyterian youth and young adults and supports children-at-risk programs at the national level. Since 1998, Presbyterians of all ages have raised over \$7 million for these ministries that benefit younger members of God's family. An offering envelope is attached to this newsletter for your donation to this great cause.

May 2010 Sunday Morning Volunteer Schedule

Date	Time of Service	Greeters	Head Usher	General Ushers	Reader	Prayer Card Readers	Kinderchurch Assistant	Coffee Servers
May 2 Communion Deacon Sunday	8:45AM	Deacons	Deacons	Deacons	Deacon	N/A	Morgan Manuel	Sharon & Ted Nelson
	11:00AM	Deacons	Deacons	Deacons	Deacon	N/A	N/A	N/A
May 9 Mother's Day	8:45AM	Barry & Becky O'Connor	Scott Kornish	Tracey Hornung, Cathy Kornish, Diane Lightfield, Ken Lightfield	Barb Colson	Emily Guttenberg	Jill McElhane	David & Joy Marie Doersch
	11:00AM	Connie Trettin	Les Angell	Renee Boldt, Tom Boldt, George Frye, Laura Frye	Jeanne Mayefske	Tom Neal	N/A	N/A
May 16	8:45AM	Jane Stevenson, John Stevenson	Tim Shaffer	Abbie Athanas, Patti Athanas, Valerie Bayer, Ken Couillard	Margaret Fulton	Paula Hoglund	Calvin Manuel	Barb & Norm Colson
	11:00AM	Rob Fraser Scott Fraser and Family	David Mayefske	Kim Gilbride, Sean Gilbride, Casey Van Camp, Cory Van Camp	Jane Slater	Carol Bloemer	N/A	N/A
May 23 Pentecost Confirmation Sunday	8:45AM	Geri Ellsworth Mary Francis	Jim Bowman	Jonah Buss, Mason Buss, Neil Buss, Robyn Buss	Christine Cornell	Laurie McCulloch	Beth Podlasek	Jim & Julie Tilkens
	11:00AM	Carol Foss Nancy Winslow	Mark Smith	Mary Peterson, Jerry Saxton, Ann Smith, Ellen Wright	Lowell Peterson	Nancy Umland	N/A	N/A
May 30 Memorial Day Weekend	10:00AM	Barb & Norm Colson	Sally Mielke	Jackie Hoganson, Jon McElhane, John Mielke, Ken Opgenorth	Mary Lou Opgenorth	Jane Stevenson	Heidi Wallenfang	Jim Podlasek, Karl Ver Burg

Confirmation Sunday May 23rd

Pentecost Sunday is a celebration of the beginning of the church and the power of the Holy Spirit. So it is appropriate time to celebrate the gifts of the Spirit that God places within each of us, and most especially fire and passion of our young people. So on the day of Pentecost, after a year of hard work and

studying, the Spiritual Quest class will be confirmed into membership.

Come to the 8:45 worship service Sunday May 23rd and welcome our students into membership. Join us in Fellowship Hall for a reception following to celebrate this milestone in their journey of faith.

Memorial Presbyterian Church
803 East College Ave.
Appleton, WI 54911-5697

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Pentecost Offering

for Children at Risk, Youth, and Young Adults

Through the Pentecost Offering, the church expresses a common commitment to provide hope for children at risk, opportunities for youth and young adults to grow in their faith, and short-term mission service options for young adults.

Please give generously.

