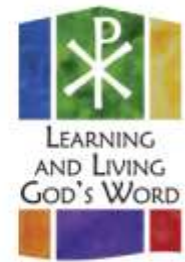


# Chimes

A newsletter for the Members & Friends  
of Memorial Presbyterian Church

September 2011



803 EAST COLLEGE AVENUE / APPLETON WI 54911 / (920) 734-1787 / [www.memorialpresbyterianappleton.org](http://www.memorialpresbyterianappleton.org)

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## Learning and Living and Growing God's Word!

As the weather cools, many of us will shift our daily schedule. Kids get off to school. We open our eyes more widely to watch for them and their school buses. The church office will resume opening at 8:00 a.m. And our Sunday School for children *and* adults begins at 8:45 a.m. This is a new starting time.

### September Adult Education Line-up

The Adult Education classes are off to a great start in September! We will meet in the Parlor on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. With the new Sunday morning schedule (see schedule on page 12), it is expected that Chancel Choir members will duck out of class at 9:30 a.m. for their choir rehearsal/warm up. The Senior High youth will be part of the youth Sunday evening program (see page 3), but youth are invited to join the Adult Education classes on Sunday mornings.

The selection of Adult Education classes for September are as follows:

- **September 11 - Rally Sunday:** Adults and children will plant bulbs on the MPC grounds and share a lesson on *Growing and Learning*.
- **September 18** – Pastor Kathy will help us to consider *How to Welcome (and Care for) a New Pastor*. As our Pastor Nominating Committee continues to read profiles and interview potential pastors, we need to get ready to welcome him or her. Discover traditional and creative ways to support your pastor.
- **September 25 - Conversations on Commitments.** Using a café model, Connie Olson will lead us to discuss how it is we make decisions about the use of our time and resources, what our choices indicate about our values, and what is really important to us.

Join in as we learn, live and grow God's Word!

*Pastor Kathy*

## Welcoming Walls

There's no better time to see what Memorial Church is all about than on a Sunday morning when the building is abuzz with Church School activity, mission project preparations, music, worship, and time for fellowship. Our Welcoming Walls program is offered at 8:45 a.m. on the first Sunday of every month. The program includes a tour of the building and a brief orientation to our beliefs and programs. If you've ever visited or wondered about us, we'd love to tell you more!!

## Community Gardening at MPC

Learning, Living & Growing  
God's Word



Put on your jeans, get out your shovel, and get ready for some serious gardening! In response to a request for a church-wide project, a Planning Team presented a compelling concept to Session last June. Dressed as farmers, Greg Braatz, Kevin Loomans, Carol Bloemer, Andy Ogilvie and Connie Olson unveiled an initiative that will enable the congregation to reduce hunger, promote healthy living, and work for the care and renewal of the earth. The initiative is entitled, "Ongoing Partnership with the

Community Gardens – Living (and Growing) God's Word in the Local Community."

Is "community gardening" new to you? The Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, an association of Christian denominations, has worked in this area since 2005. They suggest that:

*A community garden is a shared space gardened collectively by a group of people or a cluster of individual plots tended by different people. It is a perfect addition to a faith community, as gardens foster social involvement, opportunities for healthy activity and connection to the land and environment. They may serve as a place for gatherings, classes, mentoring opportunities and friendship.*

Since 1999, over 2,400 Fox Valley residents have participated in a community garden setting. There are currently seven garden rental programs and five teaching gardens in our tri-county area. A conservative estimate suggests that 1,172,356 lbs. of food has been grown in these gardens since 1999. Community gardeners donate an average of 1,000 lbs. of produce every year to local food pantries.

In August, Session established a new action group to organize the effort. Planning will continue throughout the fall. Groundbreaking begins in 2012.

Should the youth be involved? Should we sponsor lessons on gardening, encourage canning, and hold a contest for the largest pumpkin, bean or radish? How about a "worship in the garden" on planting day and harvest day?

Would you like to be involved in planning this initiative? Our church needs people like you to help organize the project. Contact the church office at 734-1787 or [mpc@athenet.net](mailto:mpc@athenet.net) and tell us how you would like to be involved!

## Christmas in July



The numbers tell it all! 174 pairs of socks, 417 pairs of underwear, 19 t-shirts & tanks, and 7 bras. All that adds up to 617 new items, in a rainbow of colors and a range of sizes from preschool to high school! The Adopt-a-Family Team thanks everybody who participated in this project to help send our community's children back to school looking and feeling their best. See you in December.

-- Beth Podlasek, Betty Lockhart, Cori Marinan, Linda Keller, and Pat Spindler

## Get an Early Start on the Mitten Tree

Speaking of Christmas...we know that with the hot temperatures we've had over the summer, mittens may be a bit far from your mind. But it really isn't too early to start thinking of getting out the knitting needles and making handmade mittens for the Christmas Mitten Tree. A few generous people have given us yarn to get us started. You will find the collection of many-colored yarns on the table in the narthex, along with mitten directions, should you need them. Feel free to take any that you can use for Christmas mittens.



## New Youth Group Schedule

We are kicking off our new year with many changes! The Senior High Youth Group will meet *every* Sunday evening from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., with a combination of Sunday School lessons mixed in with fellowship times. We will be having snacks instead of supper, which leaves more time for fun!

Our first official meeting to plan and prepare for the year ahead will be held at a very special location – Margaret Fulton’s cottage! We will be going to her cottage on Saturday, Sept. 17 at 2:00 p.m. and returning on Sunday. We will be swimming, playing games, hiking, and talking about the year ahead. Please let Jill McElhaney know if you are able to attend. Our Sunday night Youth evenings will begin on Sept. 25 with Greg Braatz teaching us about Going Green! Please join us in the youth room at 6:00 p.m. on the 25th.

## Stockholders’ Dinner & Work Trip News

Please join us for an exciting evening on *Sunday, September 11 at 5:30 p.m.* to hear all about our adventures on the Rosebud Reservation. We will be having a delicious dinner, live entertainment from the work trip crew, and fun galore. RSVP to the church office, 734-1787, if you will be able to attend to hear all about the amazing week we had at the Rosebud Reservation in Mission, South Dakota. Sixteen hard-working youth and adults from MPC fixed and painted a front porch, dug and placed 38 poles to make a security fence, chipped and primed a house, filled 1,129 boxes for the organization *Feeding South Dakota*, moved several hundred pounds of rock for the sweat lodge ceremony, replaced siding and inner paneling for a house, plus numerous other odd jobs. (*see Ryan’s article below*)

A huge thank-you to everyone who made this work trip possible: our youth – Jacob Johnson, Calvin Manuel, Joe Weber, Ryan McElhaney, Phil Boldt, Brandon Tilkens, Elizabeth Braatz, Lauren Tilkens, Hannah Herzog, Anna Shaffer, Sophie Hornung, Morgan Manuel, and our chaperones Tom and Kara Manuel, Tim Shaffer, and Jill McElhaney. Pastor Kathy wrote our communion service, which was awesome. Linda Boldt had all the behind-the-scenes information, which was invaluable. The Mission and Outreach team sent little stories and quips to share each day that were so meaningful. The parents helped with fundraising events and supported the work trip crew. The congregation provided all their love and support at all times. We are so blessed!

## Youth Action Group

The Youth Action Group will also meet at a new time this year. Beginning Sunday, September 11, we will meet on the second Sunday morning of the month at 9:30 a.m. We would like any and all youth to attend so you can have a say in what we do. Please join us in the Youth Room.

**Traveling with Ryan** *The following is a first-hand account of the work trip, written by Ryan McElhaney:*

The work trip started with arriving at church at 7:15 a.m. on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. We departed at around 8:00 a.m. and drove about three and a half hours before we stopped for lunch. We ate at a nice little rest stop in La Crosse. We then drove about five more hours and arrived at Oak Hills Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. We (*continued on page 4*)

## Sunday School News



### Bible Sunday

Do you have a new third grader in your home? Most third graders are getting to be great readers. MPC recognizes this, and presents a Bible to your child. Bible Sunday is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Ellen Braatz to let her know that your child will be at church. Ellen can be reached at 734-1787 or christianed@athenet.net.

### Spark Bibles!

Our children's Sunday School program will use Spark Bibles to match the Spark curriculum. If you would like a Spark Bible for home use, we can order one for you. The Spark Story Bible is for ages 2 through second grade and has wonderful, engaging illustrations. The Spark Bible is for third graders through seventh graders and has lots of notes and helps for the children. The Bibles are \$19.95 or less, depending on the group order. If interested, see Ellen Braatz.

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### Traveling with Ryan *(continued from page 3)*

spent the night at the church and went to their worship service the following morning. After the service we departed on our four-hour drive to Mission, South Dakota on the Rosebud Reservation. We stopped at Al's Oasis for lunch and then drove our final leg of the trip to arrive in Mission.

Our first day in Mission we moved into our house and met with the coordinators of Tree of Life Ministry. Throughout our week there we did many different jobs in the community. We spent our first two days working on a fence around the new house that Tree of Life built. Wednesday was our day off and we spent it at The Badlands National Park. It was an incredible experience for me, since I had never seen it before and it really showed me the true beauty of nature.

After spending a couple of hours there, we went to Mt. Rushmore and it truly is an amazing American monument. We were there for about two hours and took about 1,000 pictures, then it started to downpour. We had a nice dinner at Desperados and went back to our lovely home. On Thursday, half of our group went to Pierre, the Capital City, to pack boxes for the elderly and the other half stayed and worked on a house. The owner of the home was Chud, who was a very interesting man, and his wife, Francis. We spent two days at his house and installed a new door and window and improved the siding. It was great to help them out and also to learn about their lives while we were there.

Thursday night we went to a Sweat Lodge ceremony held by Chief Hollow Horn Bear. This was my favorite experience from the whole trip. There were about 15 people in a tiny hut sitting shoulder to shoulder while it was hovering around 190 degrees inside! Hollow Horn Bear chanted, sang and told stories during our time in the Sweat Lodge. I felt truly cleansed of my sins after I had sweated everything out. It is an experience I will take with me for the rest of my life.

Friday night we had our communion service, which included washing of the feet and an agape meal. It helped us reflect on everything we had learned and experienced on the trip. Saturday was a long day of driving back to Appleton. We spent twelve hours in the car that day and most of us slept a lot of that time away. We arrived in Appleton at about 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. The time we spent together in Mission is a time I think everyone will remember forever. We laughed a lot, learned a lot, but most importantly helped a lot and even though there is still much to do, I feel we have made a lasting imprint on the lives of the people we helped.

## How to Let God Help You through Hard Times

I have had in my possession for a number of years a book with the above title. I pick it up from time to time and read on a specific topic: disaster, discouragement, loss of control, wounded heart, pain, moving on, and when God seems far away.

The following are excerpts from the book's introduction:

- In the course of every life, there will be times of tragedy, sorrow, fear, and confusion...times when there appears to be no light at the end of the tunnel.
- We may ask ourselves, God, and others, "Why, God? Why me? How will I get through this?"
- At some point, we may simply stop trying to fix things, control things, and make things happen. We choose to turn the problem over to God. When we surrender, His work begins.
- When we accept God's grace, it comes pouring down upon us like sweet and nourishing rain.
- *In the moments we ask God to help us through the hard times, the power of love is made evident...for there is no power greater than love.*

When I have gone through hard times, I have tried to rely on God for help and healing. While I gain insights from reading books such as this one, I find even greater meaning in conversations with family members and dear friends. This book's title might be aptly modified: **How to Let Your Deacon Help You through Hard Times.** While Deacons don't replace God, they are partners with God and Christ when help is needed by an individual or a family.

Do you realize how blessed you are as a member of MPC to have one special friend who cares about and prays for you? **That friend is your MPC Deacon!** You may have a close relationship with your Deacon or may only know your Deacon by name. Deacons, as servants of Christ, are called to reach out to those in need. As moderator of the Board of Deacons, I have witnessed and learned about an abundance of acts of caring, compassion, and kindness offered by Deacons. You are encouraged and welcomed to contact your Deacon when you are going through hard times. Please thank God for your Deacon and the work of all the Deacons.

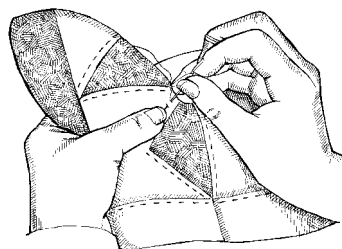
-- Christine Cornell, Deacon

## Calling All Quilters and Quilter Wannabees

What is red, yellow, blue, green, pink, purple, brown, orange, white, and made of cotton?

Answer: *The Quilting Bees' stash!*

For about six years now, a group of quilters has met in the parlor two or three times a month. Since the start, we have given every new baby born or adopted into the church a quilt. We have also made several to give to members whom we think might find comfort in their warmth and love, and made a few as going-away gifts. But we still have lots of fabric – enough to share with more quilters. No experience is necessary – we will help you get started.



QUILTING GROUP

We meet from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. on the first, third, (and sometimes fifth) Thursday of each month. If you are interested but the time doesn't work for you, let us know. Maybe we can flex our time. Maybe a second group can start at a different time. Maybe you can pick out fabric and make something at home.

If you have questions or want to talk about options, feel free to call Ann Kleman, Mary Lou Opgenorth, or Betty Lockhart.

## MPC Emergency Shelter Effort Can Use *You*

*In every community there is work to be done. In every heart there is the power to do it.-- Mariaane Williamson*

This is another year that we will be serving dinner at the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Cities. You can be part of the team that makes, serves, and cleans up dinner on the first Saturday of the months of November, January, March, May, July, and September. This is a very worthwhile activity. If you care to help, there are three ways you can volunteer. We need six helpers at each meal (you only serve once a year), a list of substitutes, and also people to bake cookies and desserts for 25 people. If you want more information or to volunteer for these jobs, call Nancy Winslow at 731-0892 or e-mail [nwinslow@athenet.net](mailto:nwinslow@athenet.net) by October 1.

### A Note of Heartfelt Thanks

Dear Friends at MPC, Thank you so much for your prayers, concerns, visits, calls and flowers. It was all so much appreciated! I am back in my apartment and my goal is to be back with you at church by Worldwide Communion Sunday! Thank you again for being such a loving community! *Sincerely, Georgie Huss*

### Thank You

Thank you for your care and love for my friend James DuBose in his final months at MPC. James spoke of his relationship with God, read his bible and witnessed to others how faithful decisions were hard but changed his life and death. His favorite bible book was Job, with persecutions that did not waiver steadfast faith.

The Sunday of his baptism is one I will never forget and I trust that it is imprinted in your heart, as well. James had worked for churches for years, but was never able to worship with the congregation, so hadn't been baptized. Thank you for standing with him, praying for him and reaching out to him. Your graciousness, receptiveness to his stories of humor and grace, and inclusion of a child of God whose life story was very different from your own were acts of sacred hospitality, which I hope blessed you as well.

Thank you to the staff and deacons for all arrangements for the memorial service and fellowship dinner. So many made phone calls, printed bulletins, baked delicious cookies, cut up fruit, made slaw, shopped, mixed lemonade, rolled out tables, set up chairs, served, and importantly, cleaned up.

A special thank you to a gardener named Joy, Pat Spindler, Arthur Steiner and Alice Baumbach for the beautiful flower arrangements. The green hydrangeas conveyed beauty, peace and grace to me. All will be well.

I am very grateful to our church staff for picking up the slack when James needed me the last couple of weeks. I better understand the stresses of 24/7 care giving, the desperate need for respite for caregivers, and the importance of starting Hospice care earlier to provide support to the caregiver. Rev. Rebecca Proefrock filled the pulpit with short notice, and MPC's action groups did well without my presence! (YOU are the church, not your pastor!)

Don't be afraid to accompany a friend or family member through the sometimes difficult journey through the holy days between life and death. I am thankful I was able to provide hospitality and care to James. Thank you for your care for me as journeyed with him. Blessings, *Pastor Kathy*



## Hands and Feet of God

We are about to get a new roof. Yes, the water that occasionally drips behind the pulpit when wind-driven rain comes from the northwest, the drips that land on the front row of sopranos, and the water that has damaged the swell chest of the organ will soon be a thing of the past.

The research and bidding process for the new roof was headed up by Steve Lockhart, with able assistance from Ken Couillard. They put their combined experience and expertise together to research the pros and cons of metal vs. shingled roofs; to decide whether ice barriers were necessary; and to come up with a list of high-quality contractors. Eventually they developed a list of specs covering such things as the weight and grade of shingles, pounds per inch to present to three recommended contractors. The result was three apples-to-apples bids from which to choose.

Meanwhile, Business and Finance Elder, Travis Andersen, advocated on our behalf with our insurance provider. From an initial offer to pay only for the materials to replace half of the roof (really, who replaces half of a roof?!), the insurer eventually agreed to pay approximately 75% of the replacement for the whole roof, due to Travis' dogged pursuit of a fair settlement.

And, as long as we're talking property matters, Dan Cramer and Jim Podlasek cut down some of the overhanging tree limbs and removed some of the slats in the fence surrounding the chillers. The result was an air conditioning system that was able to keep up with the demands during this very hot summer without crashing on the hottest days.

Many thanks to Travis, Steve, Ken, Dan, Jim, and the whole Property Action group for their dedicated service to this church. We will be facing several major property issues in the coming months -- an aging boiler, asbestos tiles that are becoming unglued, an organ in need of repair, and just an older building in need of some upgrades. You can rest assured that this action group is working very hard to address all of these issues with the highest quality materials and workmanship for the lowest overall cost. We thank them for being the Hands and Feet of God in providing us with a safe, dry, well-functioning facility in which and from which to do the work of the Church.

## You've Got (Voice) Mail!



Those lazy, hazy days of summer didn't apply to the Technology Task Force! Since early summer, this group, comprised of Tim Hornung, Jim Podlasek, Mark Jordan, and Paula Hogle, with input from Pastor Kathy and Linda Boldt, has been quietly working behind the scenes on some very necessary technology upgrades for the church building. Very early on, it became apparent that there were two major issues: 1) The internet connection speed was woefully inadequate for our current needs, running at a sluggish .66 Kbps, -- just a bit better than dial-up, but not by much. With the advances in technology, websites, and increase in staff and computer usage, this had to be updated; and 2) we needed secure wireless connectivity throughout the building to host the Presbytery meeting in November and to enhance our programming efforts for MPC in the future.

Research revealed that by bundling telephone and internet together, we were able to save quite a bit of money, and we upgraded to an internet speed 6 Mbps, the capability for two separate networks for wireless connectivity, and -- bonus -- voice mail, all for only \$30 more per year than what we were currently paying for telephone and internet. Now, when you call the church office, you will be able to leave messages in the staff member's individual mailboxes, and the staff will be able to change their outgoing messages, and check their voice mail messages, from remote locations.

Our work isn't done, as we continue to install the necessary electrical upgrades, telephone jacks, and wireless access points, but plans are to have everything in place by early fall. We are especially grateful to the Winnebago Presbytery, for the \$500 Technology Enhancement Grant that will be used to defray costs, and to all of the expertise that Tim, Jim, and Mark bring to the task force. Many thanks!



“For God has cheered our hearts and minds through His dear Son, whom he gave for us to redeem us from sin, death, and the devil. He who believes this earnestly cannot be quiet about it. But he must gladly and willingly sing...” (Martin Luther)

August is coming to a close and Rally Sunday is just around the corner. Church activities will come into full swing once again and the church will have abundantly more life. It is an exciting time of year, most especially because of all the opportunities that await us. I would like to take a few moments to introduce you to the musical offerings that we have at Memorial.

**Chancel Choir:** The chancel choir meets every Wednesday throughout the school year from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. They sing a variety of music from Bach and Mozart, to composers living today. We also learn different pieces to sing during the worship service like the Psalm, or other settings of the communion liturgy. While it is helpful to have everyone there every week, it is not required. If you can only come once a month, we would love to have you join us. No music training is required.

**Memorial Bells:** The Memorial Bells is the adult bell choir that meets every Wednesday from 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. We ring a wide variety of pieces, and enjoy being a bunch of ding-a-lings (a slight bell joke). The bell choir not only rings anthems, but also works on different settings of hymns to play along with the congregational singing. There is no need to worry about your ability to read music. We can teach you all you need to know to ring a bell.

**Children’s Choirs:** Our children’s choirs are led by our dedicated Lawrence students. The children will meet during their allotted education hour before worship. They sing a variety of pieces, usually about once a month.

**Bucket Band:** The MPC Bucket Band was formed by our Senior High youth. It is a group of dedicated individuals who explore a different and very interesting way for us to worship God through music. The group starts with simple rhythms put together to form something that sounds complicated. The rhythms form a cacophony of sound that gets a person’s blood flowing and ready to worship God.

These are our current musical offerings at Memorial. I encourage everyone to give it a try at any time. While we do a lot of work, we still manage to have a lot of fun, but don’t take my word for it! When I asked the members of the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir how they felt about our groups they said the following: *family, eclectic, dedicated, inspiring, meaningful, uplifting, energizing, spiritual, enjoyable, challenging, worshipful, therapeutic*. For even more insight, talk to one of our current members, and they will fill you in. I look forward to seeing you on September 7<sup>th</sup>, our first rehearsal. *Soli Deo Gloria, Matthew Walsh*

## Sunday Morning Volunteers

The Sunday Morning Volunteers scheduling team has been gradually moving to a rotation system for scheduling most of our volunteers. They have built 14 teams of greeters, ushers, Kinderchurch assistants, and coffee/lemonade hosts, making the rotation only once every three and a half months. This system seems to be working very well and people are almost always able to trade or find a substitute when there is a problem with a particular date.

New volunteers are always needed, and new folks can be assured that they will be working with others who can show them what to do and assured that their turn will come up on a regular 14-week basis. Right now, we are in need of 3-4 more folks to serve as ushers. Volunteers receive a schedule, instructions, and a list of all volunteers 3 times a year. Training sessions may also be provided. Ushers pass out bulletins; direct worshipers to empty seating; collect the offering; answer questions regarding the nursery, bathrooms, hearing assist devices, etc., and most importantly, make members, guests, and visitors feel welcome. Please consider demonstrating your membership in Memorial by becoming an usher. Call Linda Boldt in the church office at 734-1787 to volunteer-TODAY!





Summer's coming to a close, and that means that the church office is back to the regular schedule:  
*Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

The office will be closed on Labor Day.  
 Have a safe and happy holiday weekend!

## MPC to Host November Presbytery Meeting

Memorial Presbyterian Church and the Kimberly Presbyterian Church are co-hosting the November Presbytery meeting at Memorial. On Friday, November 11th, commissioners and visitors meet in the late afternoon for training, business, and a shared meal. The following day, they will complete their business, attend workshops, share a meal, and then complete their time together with worship.

It is Memorial's honor and privilege to host this meeting, which will mark the conclusion of our own Jeanne Nymoen's term as Moderator of Presbytery. Over the next two months, we will be recruiting volunteers to help with meal preparation, set up, serving and clean-up, communion preparation and serving, and other tasks. Please help us honor Jeanne and welcome the Presbytery by stepping up to help. Call Linda Boldt in the church office at 734-1787 to volunteer.

## September Sunday Morning Volunteers

Date	Greeters	Head Usher	General Ushers	Scripture Reader	Kinderchurch Assistants	Coffee Servers	Communion Preparers	Communion Servers
Sep 4	Mary Francis	Jim Baumbach	Abbie Athanas Patti Athanas Valerie Bayer Ken Couillard	Joe Weber	Julie Tilkens Lauren Tilkens	Christine Cornell Eric Edwards	Mary Francis Margaret Fulton	Judy Phillips Marty Ward Nancy Winslow Alice Baumbach
Sep 11	Jackie Hoganson Connie Olson	David Mayefske	Casey Van Camp Cory Van Camp Mike Zuege Tracy Zuege	Phillip Boldt	Connie Olson	Barb Colson Norm Colson	N/A	N/A
Sep 18	Dave & Sue Rozmarynoski	Sally Mielke	Jon McElhane Ryan McElhane John Mielke Tim Shaffer	Dave Doersch	Pat Spindler	Ken & Mary Lou Oppenorth	N/A	N/A
Sep 25	Dan & Deb Schmitz	Mark Smith	Jacob Johnson Mary Peterson Ann Smith Valerie Bayer	Jane Stevenson	Emily Guttenberg Carol Foss	Rosemary & Scott Fraser	N/A	N/A

## Indicators of Active Membership, Part II

In the last issue of *Chimes*, I quoted the section in the new Book of Order that talks about membership. In case you missed it, I've included it at the end of this article.

This month, I have an assignment for you.

Take an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper and divide it into three columns. In the left-hand column, list all the organizations you have belonged to at some time in your life - sports teams, musical groups, anything.

In the center column, list everything you had to do to become a member of each organization. Everything, including giving them your name and address.

In the right-hand column, list everything you had to do to remain a member in good standing.

When you've finished filling in your columns, sit back and reflect on this question: Why do you think these organizations set requirements for becoming and remaining a member?

I suspect you will think of several reasons for membership requirements. Some reasons benefit the organization, while others benefit the member. List the reasons you come up with on the back of the paper.

The Session has adopted a set of recommendations - not requirements - which suggests ways to demonstrate active membership in Memorial Presbyterian Church. Some of these recommendations benefit the organization, some benefit the member. But unlike other organizations, the primary rationale behind the Book of Order and these recommendations is a desire to joyfully honor our commitment to Jesus Christ, whom we have accepted as both our Savior and the Lord of our lives.

We'll be talking more about these recommendations during a two-part class on Sunday mornings in November. Until then, you can be thinking about what we mean when we say Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

### **G- 1.0304 The Ministry of Members in the PC(USA) *Book of Order*, newly revised**

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes:

- proclaiming the good news in word and deed,
- taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,
- lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support
- studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,
- supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
- demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
- responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,
- living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,
- working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,
- participating in the governing responsibilities of the church,
- reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.

-- Linda Boldt, Lay Ministry Coordinator

## Seven Deadly Words

There are several things you ought to know about the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). First of all, we are a “corporate” church, meaning we make decisions corporately, not unilaterally. Every decision - except what scripture lessons, hymns, prayers, and sermon content are to be used for the worship service- is made by a committee or by individuals granted authority to make a decision at the direction and review of Session.

Second, we function as a “representative democracy,” meaning we elect elders to serve on the governing council and make decisions on our behalf. In fact, those elders currently serving on this council, the Session, are known as ruling elders. They have the final authority over the programs, policies, and mission of the congregation.

Third, while elders are elected by the congregation and are to represent the full diversity of the members, they do not represent particular constituencies. Rather, they are instructed to govern by “seeking the Will of God.” This frees elders to make difficult and unpopular decisions if, after thoughtful discussion and prayer, they believe the Holy Spirit is leading them to follow a particular course of action.

Finally, Presbyterians affirm, as one of the historic principles of the Church, that “God alone is Lord of the Conscience,” meaning that we believe that people can hold differing opinions and still all be faithful Christians. From my experience, I think MPC members really do strive to hear and respect each other’s points of view.

Knowing these things, it’s clear why the following are this month’s Seven Deadly Words: “He/She’s unhappy. We’ll have to abandon this (idea, program, decision).”

Churches get themselves in trouble when they try too hard to please everyone all the time. Certain individuals end up having more power than they should. Pastor Baker used to say that church people would rather offend Christ than offend another church member. I have been as guilty as anyone over the years in trying to mollify an unhappy congregant and I can say from experience, I have always come to regret it.

Ideas that have been thoughtfully considered, carefully organized, and adopted by an action group or Session, need not and should not be abandoned or reversed because a few persons do not like the decision. Persons with strong feelings about an issue or project are always welcomed and encouraged to make their opinions known either by participating in the appropriate action group or by speaking or writing to Session - during the planning stages. Because ideas are so thoroughly discussed by our Presbyterian process of being routed through action groups and then reviewed by Session and because we trust our elected ruling elders to listen to the Holy Spirit, once a decision is made, the congregation can move forward together with hope and confidence.

It’s the Presbyterian way.

-- Linda Boldt, Lay Ministry Coordinator



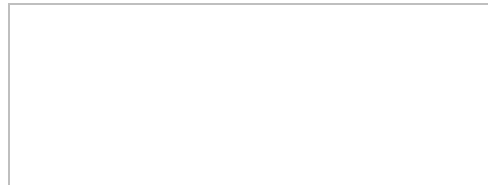
**You have been drafted for  
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***Start getting in shape!***

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## Rally Sunday on September 11 Kicks Off New Sunday Morning Schedule!

Rally Sunday will be held on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 a.m., and children and adults are invited to attend the kick-off of our Sunday School year! Education at MPC is for all ages. This year's theme will be *Growing and Learning*, incorporating a green focus to coordinate with our recent Vacation Bible School program and our new all-church gardening project. Children will meet their teachers, participate in a church-wide planting project, and have fun with your church family. Come get involved in our education program on Rally Sunday!

***Our Sunday morning schedule will be revised this year to allow more time for education and fellowship. Beginning Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, the schedule will be as follows:***

- 8:45 a.m.** - Adult Education and Children's Sunday School (with Children's Choirs) for ages 2 through 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- 9:30 a.m.** Chancel Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m.** - Worship for All in Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m.** - Fellowship Time with coffee and treats - Fellowship Hall