

Presbyterian Profiles

June 2010

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Sunday Worship Time
10:00 am Worship

**June 20 deadline for
July/August Profiles**
Send articles to:
Profiles@fpcholland.org
Always the 3rd Sunday

Vacation Bible School

BAOBAB BLAST 2010

LOCATION – Peace Lutheran Church

DATE – June 21-25

AGES – 3 yrs. – 5th Grade

COST - \$12.00 (includes T-shirt)

REGISTRATION – May 30, June 6 & 13

CONTACT – Sandy Updegraff 399-4171

VOLUNTEER OPPORUNITIES

Craft person—set up craft area each day and help children with crafts
Field trip chaperones

Cleanup people for Thursday and final cleanup on Friday

Check in/out person 8:30-9:00 am / 2:45—3:15 pm

Junior Counselors—help teachers in the class room

See Christian Education Board for Donation needs and more details

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

To Kindle or Not to Kindle

The feel of the book in my hand. The joy of turning the page. The smell of the paper. The process of buying the book in the bookstore (Schuller in Grand Rapids when I'm in the neighborhood) or selecting one at Herrick Library—those are my arguments against an electronic media tool. I'm also a skeptic about how my eyes will respond. But on the other hand, the Kindle or Nook is 'green', it saves trees, and doesn't require me to find a new place on a bookshelf, and ordering a book electronically is probably less expensive on average. It weighs almost nothing and doesn't take up the space in a suitcase that paper books do. And for summer vacation reading, that's important. Which is a segue to the yearly sharing of my summer reading list.



For starters, some fiction. David is after me to read [The Lizard Cage](#) by Karen Connelly, a harrowing story about the prison experiences of a Southeast Asian dissident. I heard an interview with Isabel Allende on NPR about her new novel [The Island Beneath the Sea](#) and I was sufficiently intrigued to add it to my list. Alexander McCall Smith's newest in the Madame Romatwa series [The Double Comfort Safari Club](#) will be a delightful beach read. Taking the advice of Neil Plantinga, president of Calvin Theological Seminary from whom I took [Imaginative Reading for Creative Preaching](#) last summer to read children's literature, I added [When You Reach Me](#) by Rebecca Stead which is the 2010 Newbery Award winner and the story of a young girl and her mother living in New York City in the 70's.

In the nonfiction area, continuing my intrigue with one word titles, ([Salt](#), [Red](#), [Cod](#)) is [Water](#). Steven Solomon reviews the importance of water in human development beginning in the Fertile Crescent and continuing to the present day. Making my way through these 480 pages this summer seems especially timely as we all watch the environmental effects of the oilspill in the Gulf of Mexico.

And now for some theological and spiritual selections. Barbara Brown Taylor, Episcopal priest and religion professor's [An Altar to the World](#) has just been released in paperback. She is able to put into words thoughts which merely brush through my mind. My preaching has been inspired by her collections of sermons as well as her prose. Another recommendation from my husband is Leslie Weatherhead's 1965 classic, [The Christian Agnostic](#). A reviewer has said that Weatherhead "cleared out the cobwebs, let me know that I could wonder about some things, even believe other things, and still be a Christian". The book is out of print, but available used, at the library. (or on Kindle for \$4.76!) Theologian and prolific writer, Harvey Cox, whose [Secular City](#) created an immediate controversy when released the same year as "The Christian Agnostic" is now in his 80's and has released [The Future of Faith](#). I've read the first three chapters and have been underlining heavily. He asks, what shape will the Christian faith take in the 21st Century? I'm tempted to offer a summer book study on this easily accessible, well written book. Anyone interested?

And, I'll close with recommending Philip Gulley's [If Grace is True](#). Some of you are joining Matt this summer for conversations about these poignant stories. I want to keep up with all of you!

The Church Family

Graduates Honored on May 16

Travis Ball, graduated from Zeeland East High School, will attend Belmont University in Nashville, TN. in Audio Engineering Technology.

James Benko graduated from Holland High, will attend Grand Valley State University.

Carston Clark, graduated from Holland High, will attend Grand Valley or University of Michigan.

David Gansen, graduated from Hamilton High, will attend Hope College.

Amanda Richardson, graduated from West Ottawa, will attend Ball State University, Muncie IN. in Telecommunications.

Emma Sasamoto, graduated from West Ottawa.

Haley Stokes, graduated West Ottawa, will attend Western Michigan University, in Flight Science and Flight Administration.

Faye Van Oostenburg, graduated from Holland High, will attend Michigan State University.

Kate Van Roekel, graduated from Holland High, will attend University of Iowa.

Matthew Van Oostenburg graduated from Hope College with an Exercise Science Major.

Tyler Klinesteker graduated from GVSU with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.

Kate Sasamoto graduated from Law School.

Emily Class graduated from Willamette University in Oregon.

Kassie Evenson graduated from Minnesota University with her JD.



The Church Family

Open House

**Join us as we celebrate the
high school graduation of**

James Daniel Benko

When: June 12, 2010

Time: 12:00-3:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church

659 State Street

Holland MI 49423

Please RVSP by June 5, 2010

call (616) 772-9866, or

email: jimbenko@hotmail.com

Thank You

I want to thank everyone for the thoughts and prayers for my mother, Matilda Heath, over the years. Thank you for the prayers and cards I have received since she passed away.

They mean so much to come from my church family. Thank you, Peace, Aline Miller

Meet and Mingle Schedule

May 30—Richard Rust, Peggy Vanden Heuvel June 6— Shirley Benko

June 13—Sandy Peterson

June 20—Michelle Richardson

June 27—Doug & Margo Johnson

Men's Softball Schedule 2010 FPC Baseball Team

Coach: Kevin Oswald **Assistant Coaches:** Bill Evenson, Carl Van Faasen

Roster: Kevin Oswald, Bill Evenson, Collin Magennis, Mike Van Houzen, Bill Pekich, Doug Evans, Scott Evans, Brett Roach, Carl Van Faasen, Matt Peterson, Tedd Oyler, Tim Staal, Matt Van Malsen and Kurt Van Houzen

All games are played on Field #3 at the Matt Urban Sport Complex on 32nd St. in Holland.

Partial Regular Season Schedule (home team listed last)

Monday June 7 7:30pm Cops and Robbers vs. First Presbyterian

Monday June 14 6:30pm First Reformed Church vs. First Presbyterian

Monday June 21 BYE Week

Remainder of schedule to be announced.

Invitation

First Presbyterian Church of Allegan and The Presbytery of Lake Michigan invite you to celebrate in joyful worship the installation of Karen Fitz

LaBarge as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Allegan June 13, 2010

5 p.m. Reception Immediately Following

First Presbyterian Church 200 Cutler Street Allegan MI 49099

The Church At Work

What is the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering?

Begun in 1922, this 2010 offering celebrates Presbyterian Women's history of giving to missions for 88 years.

Who will receive grants from the money collected?

Two organizations will be helped this year. They are the Kindergarten and Childcare Center in Kirkuk, Iraq, and the R.I.S.E. (Reach-Improve-Strengthen-Empower) Project of The Peace Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

Explain the reason for this mission in Kirkuk, Iraq?

The Kindergarten and Childcare Center provides high quality education to children, teaching basic skills in a loving environment. The center-operated under Christian principles of love, peace, tolerance and nonviolence-is a welcome institution in its Middle Eastern context. Requests for enrollment far exceed its current capacity of 150 students, as evidenced by a long waiting list.

In less than four years of operation, the Kindergarten and Childcare Center has improved early education for its 150 students. Dedicated teachers provide the highest level of instruction in general knowledge, health, art, and music to kindergarten children. Already at full capacity, the center hopes to expand, adding a primary school on a nearby property.

The current kindergarten building is now for sale. The Birthday Offering grant will help fund the purchase of this building and a neighboring building to house the primary school. More children and their families will benefit from the faithful education at this center.

How does the R.I.S.E. Project help children and families?

Peace Presbyterian Church works to be a beacon of light in Louisville's diverse Newburg community by providing services specifically to children, youth, adults and families identified as at-risk or in need of support during a transitional period. This Birthday Offering grant will strengthen the church's outreach in the community by expanding the number of people being served by four educational or family service opportunities:

- Kids Café—healthy food, nurturing and educational support through an after school program predominantly for children who live in single parent families.
- Project Hope— food for people who are homeless, as well as Alcohol and Narcotics Anonymous counseling services to women, men and children in need.
- Family to Family Visitation—supervised visits between children in foster care and their biological parents.
- Families in Transition—counseling for couples and their children to help them cope more effectively with problems that result from divorce.

How can we be a part of this mission work that seeks to make a better world?

What a wonderful way to celebrate our own birthdays! Envelopes are in this issue of Profiles, and will be received throughout the summer.

Mission Fair, Neighborhood Outreach Planned This Fall

Plans are in the works for two new projects this fall:

A Mission Fair Local missions that we help support will be invited to set up information booths in the M&M Cafe in late September. This will provide an opportunity for you to ask questions and see where your mission dollars go.

Neighborhood Outreach Project Saturday, October 9th has been selected as the date for this project. Flyers will be circulated to our church neighbors in August offering our help in projects such as cleaning windows, raking leaves, painting a small room, et cetera. We will be asking for volunteers in early September to honor any requests we receive.

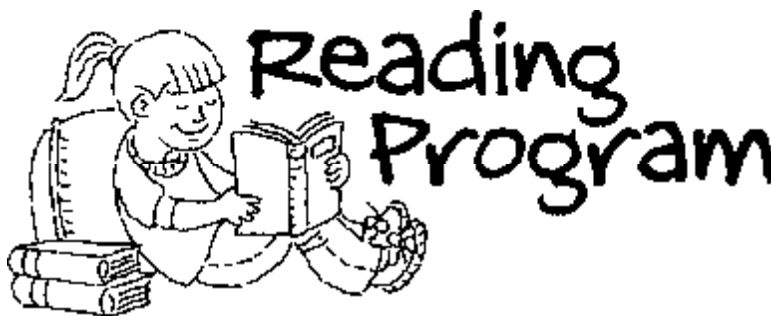
It was gratifying to see The One Great hour of Sharing offering reach \$3300 which is close to the same amount as last year. The generosity of our congregation is amazing.

Outreach Council's criteria for distribution of monies to local missions was discussed. It was decided that in order for a nonprofit to qualify for a donation they needed to (1) provide financial statements in a timely fashion (2) share our faith vision or give us a sense of such and (3) meet a strong need in the community.

Thank you, Tim and Nancy Staal, for your great organization of another Crop Walk. Also thanks to all of you who walked and donated. Larry Lynn

Summer Reading Program

Each Wednesday from June 16 through July 28 First Presbyterian will be helping read to migrant children from 7 pm to 8 pm. Along with five other area churches we will read at the migrant camps. Books are supplied. Bring a blanket to sit on with the children or a chair. We need three to six volunteers each week. Sometimes you will be reading with several children and sometimes there will be extra readers. The books are in English and the program helps the children with their reading, their English and their appreciation of books. Each child gets to take home a book at the end of the hour. We read on the lawn at the Quincy Street Migrant housing (corner of Quincy and 142nd Ave.) Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. You can sign up for one time or as many as you want to. For all of us who have read in the past it is a very rewarding experience.



The Church at Work

CROP Hunger Walk Thanks you

Cold winds on Saturday and steady rain on Sunday did not discourage the hardy First Presbyterian walkers. About 80 members participated in the CROP Hunger Walks on April 24 and 25 despite the challenging weather. At the worship services on May 16th, many envelopes were returned during the special offering.

An anonymous donor in the Holland area pledged \$30.30 for every two walkers in honor of the thirtieth anniversary of the Holland/Zeeland CROP Hunger Walk. At the count we have now, our church earned \$1,200 from this donation. A member of our church pledged \$3 per walker which earns us an additional \$240 from this generous member. Stay tuned for exact numbers of walkers and funds collected to be reported our July article...

Thank you to all our dedicated walkers and the many supporters! The overwhelming generosity of this congregation plus the willingness and enthusiasm of our walkers makes being a part of the CROP Walk a joyful experience! Because of the efforts of the kindhearted members of First Presbyterian Church fewer people around the world and in our community will be hungry. If you have not returned your envelope, please return it as soon as possible. Our goal is to have all envelopes returned by the middle of June. Please remember, all CROP Walk envelopes, used or unused, should be returned to Tim or Nancy Staal. Call 396- 4755 if you have any questions, find Tim and Nancy on Sundays, or drop your envelope off at the church office.

Host Families Needed for Ecumenical Council Delegates

On June 18th, more than 1,000 people from 100 countries will come together to launch the World Communion of Reformed Churches at Calvin College in Grand Rapids. This represents the unifying of the Grand Rapids-based Reformed Ecumenical Council with the Switzerland-based World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

At global ecumenical events such as this, there is an opportunity for local congregations to get involved and meet delegates who have traveled from around the world to attend the meeting. Churches in the area are invited to participate in the "Share & Host Weekend" on Saturday, June 26, and Sunday, June 27. An invitation has been offered to host three of these delegates here at FPC.

Hosts need to pick the delegates up at 2:30 Saturday afternoon and spend time with them Saturday night and Sunday morning. On Sunday morning, the delegates will join us in worship when they will have to opportunity to preach, teach, or share their stories with us. Hosts will return them to Calvin College campus or their hotels. Please contact Larry Lynn at 399-0799 or oldrun@aol.com or Jan Goodwin at 399-5440 or j.goodwin@att.net if you can be part of this historic and inspiring event.

THE CHURCH FAMILY

June Birthdays

- 6-1 Joyce Markes
 6-2 Don Wade, Kyle Klinesteker
 6-3 Pat Smith
 6-4 Danielle Peterson, Roger Scholten
 6-5 Connie Oppenhuizen, Sarah Karn
 6-6 Marnie Pierce, Paul Van Faasen
 6-7 Diann Anderle, Ted Stokes
 6-8 Betty Karn, Lois Sligh,
 Robert Yonker
 6-9 Sarah Glover, Mary Ann Frieling
 6-10 Travis Williams
 6-11 Liz Bristol, Onalee Crane, Ted Creek
 6-13 Eleanor Roberts, Kevin Oswald,
 Marilyn Chamberlain, Jeff Slaughter
 6-16 Mike DeWaard, Keith Ditch,
 Diane Bergstrom, Sam Martens
 6-18 Tyler Stokes, Maya Edwards-Parker
 6-19 Evelyn Wise, Opal Page,
 Tracy Kramer, Vicki Best
 6-20 Rich Lievense, David Morrow,
 6-21 Allan Steer, Ruth Frechen,
 Emmett Altena
 6-23 Claire Johnson, Maegan Johnson
 6-24 Aaron Letts, Katherine Sasamoto
 6-25 Lorena Chambers, Peggy Purdy,
 Kyle Masteller
 6-28 Matthew Van Oostenburg,
 Zach Geiger
 6-30 Nancy Steer, Doug Smith,
 Amy Devanney



Freedom Village Inn, 145 Columbia Ave.,
 Suite 1, Holland 49423

Jeannette Gage Mary Lambert
 Trudy Stewart Martha Turinsky
 Mary Ann Frieling

Oakcrest Manor, 11909 James St.
 Holland 49424

Shirley Judd

Heritage Health Care, 320 Central Ave.,
 Zeeland 49464

Joyce Scholten

Warm Friend, 5 East 8th St., Holland 49423
 Ev Frobom #524

Maple Woods Resthaven, 49 E 32nd St.,
 Holland 49423

Mary Jenkins #251

Women's Book Club

June 27 The Double Bind by Chris Bohjalian

Frances Martin
 5-11-2010



Change of Address

Don and JoAnne Brower
 259 Appletree Lane
 Holland MI 49423
 298-2448

The month of our summer mission trip is upon us! June 20-26 members of the high school youth group will be headed off with some dedicated chaperones to Washington DC on a mission trip. This trip will allow the youth to work in an urban setting which is different than the past two mission trips. There will be chances to serve in a soup kitchen, an after-school-type program, as well as opportunities to serve the home-bound and those on a fixed income. Through it all, they are ambassadors of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church and they are the arms of the body of Christ reaching out into the world. We look forward to filling you in on the lessons learned and the exciting stories that will surely unfold before us in our nation's capital.

Throughout the rest of the summer, the youth look forward to meetings filled with fun activities where the group continues to grow in fellowship and friendship, all the while learning lessons from God's Word that speaks to them today and is applicable to their lives as students and citizens.

For the youth that have just finished 5th grade and are headed into 6th grade this fall, you can begin attending the regular youth meetings on Wednesday evening, June 2. Meetings start at 6:00 pm and run until 7:30 pm (unless otherwise noted). For the youth that have just finished 8th grade and are headed into 9th grade, you can start attending the High School youth group on Sunday June 13th. Those meetings start at 6:00pm and go until 8:00pm (unless otherwise noted).

Calendar

Middle School

Wednesday June 2 -Youth Group at FPC
Wednesday June 16- Youth Group at FPC
Wednesday June 30- Youth Group at FPC
Wednesday July 14- BEACH DAY (Meet at Tunnel Park 6:00-7:30pm)

High School

Sunday June 13- Youth Group at FPC
Sunday June 20- LEAVE for DC (Return on Sat. June 26)
Sunday July 11- Youth Group at FPC
Sunday July 18-BEACH DAY (Meet at Tunnel Park 2:00-4:00 pm)
Monday July 19-LEAVE for Presbyterian Youth Triennium 9Return on Sat. July 24)
Sunday July 25-Youth Group at FPC

Christian Education

Our Book of the Summer

Reading and discussion will begin on **Thursday June 3 at 7:00pm**. We will be exploring the book *If Grace is True: Why God Will Save Every Person* by Philip Gulley and James Mulholland. Our first meeting will be a chance to introduce the topic and hand out copies of the book for those individuals who don't have a copy. We will meet every other Thursday through June and July. All voices are welcome as we delve into a dialogue of grace and Church doctrine, both of which are firmly rooted in the life and work of Jesus Christ. If you have any questions, email Pastor Matt (mattw@fpcholland.org) or call the church office (616-392-9022).

Christian Symbols

This modern symbol represents the church and its many, varied "workers." A multitude of people, each with different tasks and gifts, works to build up the body of Christ. Often, nine bees are pictured near the hive to represent the nine fruits of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23).



The Rainbow represents God's pardon and his promises. It also symbolizes his reconciliation to faithful Christians. After the Flood, God placed a rainbow in the sky as a symbol of his promise to never destroy the earth that way again (Genesis 9:12-16). A rainbow can also represent the throne of Christ, as well as his glory and final judgment.



You're the apple of God's eye!

You're a star in our galaxy!

A
Big
Thank You
To
All
Our
Volunteers

We're nuts about you!

This place would be a zoo without you!

Thank you for being a Red Hot volunteer!

You're worth a mint!

We'd be in knots without you!

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

I know that many of you are excited about the baseball and golf seasons which are now in full “swing” or that auto-racing can be found on television every Sunday afternoon, but today my mind is on football; Denver Bronco football to be specific. No, I am not trying to rush through the summer; after all, I still need some time to sit and relax by the beach. What I am pondering in my heart and mind this day is how much it was a part of my life and the lives of so many of my friends. While the games were only a fraction of our week during the fall and winter, the memories of the past game’s glories or agony would only be eclipsed by the anticipation of the next opportunity for these beloved players to once again take the field. Being a Bronco fan was part of who we were. We took pride in a win and felt the pain of a well-fought battle that ended in defeat and if anyone ever challenged the faith we had in our team, we would defend them, unashamed of being identified alongside the symbol of the Denver Broncos.



I am sure that many of you can identify with my past as a Bronco fan only replacing the orange and blue with a different team logo. Perhaps you are a Tigers fan or a Lions fan, maybe a Cubs or a Bears fan. There is a sense of pride belonging to a larger body of people who feel the same way as you do about a particular team or sport. Complete strangers will strike up conversations with one another when they are both wearing attire supporting the same team. This scene plays out in restaurants, airports, across the country, and across the globe. People are able to identify with each other and openly share their thoughts, their passion, and even the faith they have in a particular team or sport’s star.

If only faith were as engaging as football. Many of us find it difficult to talk about our faith with others, even when we know that we share similar beliefs. I include myself in this statement as well. For a long time I would talk about anything but religion. It was not that I did not take pride in my faith or that it was not interesting, but it was too divisive and made me too vulnerable. Then again, being a Bronco fan in 80’s and 90’s made a soul feel pretty vulnerable and could be pretty divisive too. For some reason, however, Jesus remained at church, locked behind the heavy wooden doors, only to be visited on Sunday morning or if I really needed something so much that I would pray (often times for a Broncos victory). Can faith ever be as popular a topic as sports?

Does your faith extend beyond Sunday worship services? Do you talk about your faith with family or friends? Do you share your thoughts, your views, your fears, or even your questions with those around you? Does your dinner conversation revolve more around the local sports teams than faith? This is not meant to guilt anyone, but rather to encourage each individual to take a close look at his or her life and see whether or not one’s faith in Christ permeates every part of one’s life or if talk of Jesus is relegated to one hour of worship each week. It is my hope that each of us, I again include myself in this statement, will release Jesus from the confines of the church building where many times we have left him, bringing him into the realm of our every day conversations. Moreover, that this be done with the same spirit of shared passion and excitement rather than debate or division, sharing rather than seeking to correct. In faith, may we seek to do just that.

First Presbyterian Staff & Officers

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