

THE NEW TIMES

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

JUNE/JULY 2009

WORSHIP IN THE PARK AUGUST 2ND

Sunday, August 2nd will be the date of our worship service at Sturges Park in Buffalo. The service will be at 9:30 a.m. Music will be led by BPC's Folksingers.

After the service, we will have a picnic, so bring a dish to share and your own beverage. Plates and utensils will be furnished.

Bring a lawn chair if you have one, and any games you might want to try later. Friends are always welcome! Hope to see you there!

SEPTEMBER 20 WORSHIP & TWINS GAME

Our Sunday worship service on September 20th will be a celebration of the youth's summer mission trip and other youth summer mission activities. After worship everyone is invited to attend a final Twins baseball

game against the Detroit Tigers in the Dome. We have great group seats reserved at \$26.00 per ticket (best available in the lower section with some "Dome Dollars"). This will be a great church-wide intergenera-

tional event, so all youth, members and friends are invited to take part in the celebration and Twins game. Tickets must be reserved and paid for no later than Tuesday, September 8th.

HER 'SERMON'

A small child was picking away at the keyboard of her preacher father's computer.

"What are you doing?" he asked.

"Writing a sermon," she replied. "What's it about?" he inquired. "What have you written so far?"

"I don't know," she answered. "I can't read yet."

Happy Father's Day!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *June 7 Church grounds meeting*
- *June 12-13 Youth Rummage Sale at BPC*
- *Happy Father's Day—June 21st!*
- *Happy 4th of July!*
- *August newsletter deadline July 17th*

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

My first church was First Presbyterian of Stillwater. They outgrew their older downtown church building in the seventies; the old church was converted into condos and now someone and someone else has a bell tower but no bell. First in Stillwater put a steeple on top of their new building for their old bell.

I next served the First Presbyterian Church of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin. Their first church was destroyed in a fire – they brought the bell from what was left of the old building and put up a free-standing bell tower between the new church and the street to call folks in their new neighborhood to worship. When their presbytery neighbor down river in Hudson, put up their new building, they created an opening in the front of a portico over their main entrance for their old bell. Uniquely, the Presbyterian Church in White Bear Lake

had their bell cleaned up and brought indoors; it sits in the Fireside Room next to their Fellowship Hall with a beautiful wood support; they use a rubber mallet to hear the bell chime since the clangor was removed. Many churches, many creative ideas.

What do you think we should do with our bell? This has been a twelve year quandary for BPC. We have \$10, 436.50 earmarked for this project in our Memorial Fund and we want to honor those who have made contributions by moving ahead. But there is another important and related question to be asked: how has our mission and identity changed since moving from downtown Buffalo to the crossroads of County Road 134 & Highway 35?

I started here on May 22, 2007; a few weeks later, we were selling slices of pie in what was then Delores Rohde's front yard before the Buffalo Days fireworks. It

was a delightful evening, though a bit windy and rainy, but I didn't know what we were trying to accomplish. It was part evangelism, part fundraiser and part fellowship. We had many, very delicious pies, but we didn't have information about the church for the few strangers who stopped; our funds were hardly raised; and our fellowship group was but a slice of the whole. I learned later that the event recreated some of the fondest memories of the old downtown congregation; we had once again been the church that had the pie sale during Buffalo Days.

Now, I'm told that there is a door that is already framed into the wall of the north east corner of the fellowship hall, ready to open out onto a possible patio – might the bell belong out to the northeast calling our neighbors to worship and fellowship with us? Should it be straight east, near the sign? Or, Continued, page 3

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FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK, CONT. FROM PAGE 2

should it be to the northwest where we have drawings for a proposed outdoor worship space; might the bell belong there where it can ring out as part of worship, weddings and gatherings amidst the creation? Should it be polished up and framed with wood, standing in the narthex where it can stand for our long history and yet chime in the now each and every Sunday? How can this bell both honor our past and lead us forward?

We are the hands and the heart of

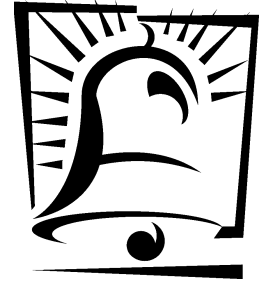
no less than Jesus Christ; we are the stewards of his life, death and resurrection. Many hands and hearts have given us our heritage and kept this church alive and there is yet much work to be done. BPC has the privilege and vocation of being stewards of 16,000 square feet of worship, education, and fellowship space in addition to 7 acres of land. This building is not so new anymore but we are still creating our identity, mission and ministry as a congregation by what we do and build in

and around this new place.

It’s time to dig in – to begin new ministries and expand our presence in the city. We’ve been tossing around a lot of ideas: landscaping, a ball park, a bell tower, a labyrinth, a memorial garden – it’s time for the words to take on flesh – yours. Please join me on June 7th after church for a discussion of possible plans for our property and our bell.

See you in church.

Julia



ADULT CLASS UPDATE

The Sunday morning adult class will continue to meet during the summer. With the change in worship time to 9:30 a.m. the class will continue to meet before the service at 8:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room.

The class uses the “The Present Word,” published by the Pres-

byterian Church (U.S.A.).

During the summer months, the Old Testament books of Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy will be the major focus. The materials are designed to help the participants understand and apply the scriptures to God’s call to Christian

community and commitment.

All are welcome, the discussions are open, often lively and friendly!

Plan to join as often as possible. Each week’s study stands alone.

PLEASE JOIN US! OUR DISCUSSIONS ARE ALWAYS LIVELY, AND WE HOPE TO WELCOME YOU!



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY Ella Jean Doth, daughter of Cindy (Johnson) and Greg Doth and granddaughter of Jean and Dave Johnson. Ella Jean was born on Sunday, April 19, 2009.

AND TO Blake Victor Vriesen, son of Brian and Beth (Quady) Vriesen and grandson of Mike and Kathy Quady. Blake was born on Wednesday, April 29, 2009.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO Jerry Aldrich and his family on the death of his sister, Janice Campion. Janice died on May 5, 2009. Her funeral service was held in Duluth on May 7, 2009.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

June Birthdays

- 13 Mindy Arns
- 14 Mary Quatier
- 16 Lisa Cooper
- 20 Nancy Grittman
- 21 Jiggs Hatcher
- 22 Justin VanderSluis
- 26 Jessica Minke
- 28 David Gatzke
- 30 Mary Markve-Patch

July Birthdays

- 2 Ron Grittman
- 5 Abby Grittman
- Steven Mills
- 17 Rainer Pensky
- 25 Marilyn Johansen
- Kristopher Spike
- 26 Anthony Mills
- 27 Anthony Lawlor
- Michele Lawlor

PLEASE PRAY FOR

This month please include all of our BPC members and friends as we enjoy the summer months. Please pray for special family times, for times of relaxation and for safe travels and vacations.

June Anniversaries

- 3 Jim & Lisa Cooper
- 6 Joel & Tammy Aldrich
- 23 Tom & Holly Minke
- Mark & Michele Lawlor
- 25 Terry & Susan Schermer
- 30 Marv & Dorothy Hofman

July Anniversaries

- 13 Don & Pat Olsen
- 15 Rainer and Dolores Pensky



SUMMER

BIRTHDAYS & Anniversaries!

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to one and all!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Scott and Fay Okronglis to Buffalo Presbyterian Church. They were introduced to the congregation as new members on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009. We also welcome Fay to our Christian family as she was also baptized on that day!

PNC UPDATE

Numerous Bible passages tell us to “wait upon the Lord” (Psalm 123:2, Isaiah 40:31, Jeremiah 14:22). Psalm 37:7 tells us to “rest in the Lord and wait patiently for him.” As a PNC we have prayed, studied PIFs, examined our needs and those of our congregation, prayed, discussed, debated, interviewed, prayed, analyzed, stepped back and prayed some more. Waiting may not have been on the list.

During the last month, we interviewed two very promising candidates

in person for our new pastor. While both candidates were well-qualified, personable and clearly devoted to following God’s call, the committee unanimously felt that God was not calling them to BPC. As we took a short break for the Memorial Day holiday, we took a breath and stepped back, reminding ourselves that God does have a great pastor picked out for BPC. However, that person will only come in God’s great and perfect timing. As much as we would like to have someone in place by fall before school

starts, we feel that working together to find the person God has chosen for us is more important than hiring someone just to be done. So we will wait in the Lord.

As summer begins, we will continue to work diligently while waiting, asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the ability to discern God’s will for BPC. We invite you to join us in prayer as we rest our search in the Lord and wait patiently for him to bring the right pastor to BPC.

The prayer shawl ministry members will continue to meet during the summer months on the first Monday of the month for June, July and August from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

JUNE 7TH CHURCH PLANNING MEETING

It’s time to dig in – to begin new ministries and expand our presence in the city. We’ve been tossing around a lot of ideas: landscap-

ing, a ball park, a bell tower, a labyrinth, a memorial garden – it’s time for the words to take on flesh – yours. Please join in

on June 7th after church for a discussion of possible plans for our property and our bell.



JUNE/JULY ROTATIONS



Greeters

June 7	Tim & Diane Heisel
June 14	Curt & Janett Hofman
June 21	Marv & Dorothy Hofman
June 28	Dick & Pat Jenson
July 5	Dave & Jean Johnson
July 12	Stan & Virginia Johnson
July 19	Chuck & Liz Klaassen
July 26	Mark & Michele Lawlor

Resident Pick-up

June 7	Dick Jenson
June 14	Marlene Aldrich
June 21	Dick Jenson
June 28	Marlene Aldrich
July 5	Dick Jenson
July 12	Marlene Aldrich
July 19	Dick Jenson
July 26	Marlene Aldrich

Lay Leader

June 7	Dolores Pensky	July 5	Nancy Grittman
June 14	Mike Quady	July 12	Joel Aldrich
June 21	Pat Olsen	July 19	Jerry Aldrich
June 28	Chuck Klaassen	July 26	Jo Hatcher

“AMERICA”



Samuel Francis Smith, a Baptist pastor, wrote the hymn “America” in 1831. Smith was studying a tune he had never heard, although he knew the British used it for the hymn “God Save the King.” He knew the British had borrowed it from the Germans, who gave it a patriotic lyrics.

Smith described what happened as he considered the patriotic tune: “I instantly felt

the urge to write a patriotic hymn of my own, adapted to the tune. Picking up a piece of scrap paper which lay near me, I wrote at once, probably within a half an hour, the hymn ‘America,’ as it is now known everywhere.”

Smith’s friend and classmate, Oliver Wendell Holmes, once told him, “Your name and fame will live when I and my works are forgotten.”

Another thought—

“America stands on two great pillars—faith and morality. Without these, our foundation crumbles.”

—George Washington

*Happy
Independence
Day!*

SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS

The school year youth events have finished. Now we look forward to a variety of fun summer activities. All youth who will be in 6th grade in the fall are welcome to join us for these activities.

Mall of America Behind the Scenes tour and fun day will be **Wednesday, June 17, from 2:00 p.m. to mid-evening**. We will go to Mall of America for a behind-the-scenes tour, shopping, dinner and a few surprise activities. We will meet at the church at 2:00 p.m. to carpool there. Please bring money

for dinner and shopping, if you wish. Thanks to Pat and Don Olsen for joining us for this event!

Presbyterian Clearwater Forest Friends & Neighbor Day
Saturday, July 11
9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A group of us will leave from the church and drive to Deerwood to enjoy the fun Clearwater Forest offers including hiking, swimming, boating, relaxing, games and activities for all ages, musical entertainment and food. We will finalize plans once

we know how big our group will be.

Local Youth Mission Opportunity
Thursday, July 23
4:00-8:00? p.m.

This is an opportunity for those who aren't going on the mission trip to meet with youth from the First Presbyterian Church of Nevada, Missouri. Our group will help make sack lunches for inner city youth. A cook-out in a park with the Missouri folks would follow. Please sign-up with Michele Lawlor, and she can answer any questions.

MISSION TRIP UPDATE

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE BPC PARKING LOT AT 8:30 AM ON FRIDAY, JULY 17TH FOR PRAYER AS THE YOUTH GROUP HEADS TO KENTUCKY ON THE MISSION TRIP.

ATTENTION SENIORS!

Please mark your calendars now! The Senior Picnic will be held on **Wednesday, August 5th** at noon. Please watch your mailbox for more details.





**BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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THE NEW TIMES is a
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Buffalo Presbyterian Church is a congregation in which the Word, the Spirit, and the Love of God enrich and strengthen us as individuals and families in Christ.
The purpose of this church is to fully equip us to become disciples of Jesus Christ, obeying His commandments to love and worship God, love and care for our neighbors, and make new disciples in our community and the world.

**THE NEW TIMES
JUNE/JULY 2009**

Newsletter submissions
are due Friday, July 17th
for the August issue.

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Holly Minke,
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