

THE NEW TIMES

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 7

SEPTEMBER 2009

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM FEATURE

C. S. Lewis' classic book *The Screwtape Letters* will be one level of **Growth In God** on Wednesday nights. Plan to join us as we delve into Lewis' humorous correspondence between senior devil Screwtape and his protégé and nephew, Wormwood, as they strive to lead humanity astray. Along the way, Lewis raises questions about good and evil, temptation, repentance and grace while offering guidance to all who are trying to live solid Christian lives.

We plan to coordinate other meeting times for those who would like to participate but aren't available on Wednesday evenings. Please call and reserve your copy at the church office. We hope to be able to order with a quantity discount.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *The BPC Women's Fall Retreat is October 9-11 at Clearwater Forest.*
- *One GIG kicks off on September 16th.*
- *September is Meals on Wheels month at BPC.*
- *BPC Red Cross Blood Drive is noon to 6:00 p.m. September 11.*

FALL CHURCH EVENTS

Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will start with a fun time! Dig out your Baptismal Certificate and join us at the Education Hour and Confirmation Kickoff on Sunday, September 13th at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Members and friends of BPC of all ages are invited! We'll have the coffee on early.

Worship will follow at 10:30 a.m.

One GIG --

Growth In God

Will you Byte?

Wednesday Nights at BPC

Kickoff is Wednesday, September 16. Dinner is at 6:15 p.m. Small group discussion follows from 6:45-7:30 p.m.

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THE PEACEMAKING OFFERING

September is our church's month to deliver Meals on Wheels. This year we are responsible for two routes. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Meals are picked up at the back door of the Lake Ridge Care Center at 11:20 a.m. each day.

Thanks for your support!

The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. It is one of four special offerings designated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly.

We will receive the Offering on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October, which this year is October 4. Each

congregation is encouraged to retain 25 percent of the Offering it receives to use for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and its community.

(The theme for 2009 is taken from Psalm 85:10, "Justice and peace shall kiss each other.")

The art is a serigraph by John August Swanson titled PSALM 85.)



YOUTH AND WOMEN'S EVENTS

Worship time change

We return to our 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, September 13, 2009. Our Education time begins at 9:00 a.m. followed by worship at 10:30 a.m.

Middle School youth group begins on Wednesday, September 23rd with the first Sunday School meeting on Sunday, September 27th. High Schoolers will begin their combined Sunday School/youth group on Sunday, September 27th.

Other youth events are on our Google Calendar.

Mark your calendars for a fun and enriching weekend at The Presbyterian Clearwater Forest Women's Retreat October 9-11, 2009.

The women of our church will share in fellowship, study and relaxation. Time is also scheduled for hiking, reading, eating and napping.

Watch the bulletin and next month's newsletter for more details.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

September church family celebrations

September Birthdays

5th Debbie Gibbs

Ty Lawlor

6th Dave Johnson

Ruth Heisel

7th Steven Heisel

12th George Thole

13th Laura Minkoff

Terry Schermer

15th Evan Anderson

18th Dorothy Hofman

Betty Gibbs

19th Katie Gatzke

Robert Cooper

21st Ralph Johansen

22nd Brian Long

24th Elizabeth Long

September Anniversaries

14th Brad & Mary Quatier

19th Jiggs and Jo Hatcher

20th Curt & Janett Hofman



This month please include all of our students who will be beginning and returning to school. Pray for courage for those beginning their school career. Pray for determination and strength for those returning for another year. Pray for wisdom, protection and perseverance for those continuing their education beyond high school. Please include our teachers, support staff, administrators and school board members for our districts, so they may lead, teach and guide our children according to God's will.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY Anna Christine Long, daughter of Brian and Julie Long, who was born on Saturday, July 11, 2009. Anna was welcomed home by her big sister, Elizabeth.

RUMMAGE SALE A SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone who contributed baked goods, crafts, and other items to sell at the Rummage Sale. Also, a BIG THANKS to all of those who helped with set up, during the sale, and those who helped after the sale to take down and distribute the leftover items. We made **over \$1,300** from our combined efforts to benefit our youth. **THANK YOU!**



WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Take a look at this line of type: "GODISNOWHERE."

Did you read it as "God is nowhere"? Or are you an optimist who read it as "God is now here"?



BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

507 County Road 134
Buffalo, Minnesota 55313

763-682-2773
buffalopresbyterian@bwig.net
www.buffalochurch.org

THE NEW TIMES IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

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

September 2009

Newsletter submissions are due by Friday, September 11th for the October issue.

Julia Carlson,
Interim Pastor

Scott Dobovsky,
Youth Director

Marcy Bodin,
Office Manager

Holly Minke,
Newsletter Editor, Youth Administrator

SEPTEMBER ROTATIONS

Lay Leader

Sept 6 Pat Olsen
Sept 13 Chuck Klaassen
Sept 20 Nancy Grittman
Sept 27 Joel Aldrich

Resident Pick-up

Sept 6 Marlene Aldrich
Sept 13 Dick Jenson
Sept 20 Marlene Aldrich
Sept 27 Dick Jenson

Greeters

Sept 6 Irene Painschab
Sept 13 Fred & Mary Patch
Sept 20 Larry & Lavina Pattee
Sept 27 Rainer & Dolores Pensky



*"If my people who are called by my name
humble themselves, pray, seek my face,
and turn from their wicked ways,
then I will ... forgive their sin ..."*
2 Chronicles 7:14, NRSV

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

The most recent launch of the space shuttle Discovery had to be postponed twice, once due to weather and the second time for a faulty valve; it finally took off on its way to the space station in a spectacular night launch that lit up the skies. Our life together it is a bit like NASA's right now. You are ready to launch, it feels like we are on a countdown, there is energy stored up and waiting for new life to begin ... but, the pastor search process is not an exact entity. The search has never been postponed due to weather or breakdown but it has its own rhythm based on the lives/schedules of the committee and the candidates. We don't know exactly when the PNC will complete its work and bring a pastor candidate before the congregation; we just have the feeling that the time is drawing near.

I share your excitement. You are ready to take off and continue your faith journey with an installed pastoral leader; you are ready to grow larger and stronger, to dig deeper within and spread the word farther beyond. You are ready to welcome a new leader as a partner in mission and ministry. I am ready as well. We are both standing in the threshold of possibility – in truth, standing in the presence and light of God for whom all things are possible.

Plans are in place for Sunday School, **Growth In God**

(One **GIG**) for adults, confirmation, and celebratory, inter-generational worship; I am blessed to be on this leg of the journey with you. But, I am also searching actively for my next call and preparing for another new beginning with another congregation. God's threshold is full of possibility but, while each possibility contains new beginnings, they cannot come without endings. I am aware of both joy and sorrow in these days. And, I am reminded of the words of Henri Nouwen:

*Do not hesitate to love
and to love deeply.*

*When those you love
deeply reject you,*

*leave you, or die, your
heart will be broken. ...*

*The pain that comes from
deep love makes your love
ever more fruitful. It is
like a plow that breaks the
ground to allow the seed
to take root and grow into
a strong plant. Every
time you experience the
pain of rejection, absence,
or death, you are faced
with a choice. You can
become bitter and decide
not to love again, or you
can stand straight in your
pain and let the soil on
which you stand become
richer and more able to
give life to new seeds. ...*

*When you love is truly
giving and receiving,*

*those whom you love
will not leave your
heart even when they
depart. They will
become part of yourself
and thus gradually
build a community
within you (The Inner
Voice of Love, p. 59).*

That is to say, just like the beginning and middle of our interim time, the joys and sorrows of going our separate ways, are part of God's planned possibilities. We don't choose between one or the other, we, like The Christ we follow, live every moment with passion and grace.

See you in church!

Julia