

# *The Chimes* of First Presbyterian Church

October 2006

A monthly newsletter for friends and members of our church

## **Congregational Meeting Called**

On October 8 immediately following worship the congregation will meet to elect elders, deacons, trustees, and ushers. The nominating committee will present its slate of nominees. Nominations may be made from the floor, but permission to make such a nomination should previously be secured from the individual.

## **Stepping Up In Faith**

The Stewardship Committee is planning for the fall financial stewardship campaign. You will receive helpful materials in mid-October. The church leadership will be making the first round of pledges the first two weeks of the month. May you be blessed through the privilege of generous giving. Our contributions are part of God's work to bring his kingdom into being on earth. Thank you for what you contribute financially and in many other ways.

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## **Tim Hebbert Family Gospel Concert**

**When: October 22nd**

**Where: First Presbyterian Church**

**Time: 5:00 p.m, followed by refreshments and fellowship**

**Cost: Free will offering.**

**Mark this on your calendar and bring a friend. The Hebbert family is well known in the Gering area and performs in various musical shows, and gatherings.**

**Your Outreach Committee**

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## **Session Hi-Lights**

The Session met on September 18, for its regular monthly meeting. Reports were received from the committees. Discussion regarding the financial situation was held. Through the generosity of the congregation, special gifts and regular offerings are improving the picture. Thanks to all. Further discussion of special fund raisers or a capital fund drive will be considered as we come to the

end of the financial year. Through a generous special gift we are also able to go ahead with the handicap bathroom remodel at this time. The donor wishes to be anonymous. We offer our thanks. A congregational meeting was called for October 8 following worship for the election of church officers.



## Operation Christmas Child

Thanks for all the Shoe Boxes, I have placed more in the lounge for your use. Please put your filled boxes in the Library and we will have Nancy take care of them. Completed Boxes are due by November 15th. May God Bless you as you bring cheer to little boys and girls. Laona

## THANK YOU.....THANK YOU.....THANK YOU!

Well, by the time you receive this Chimes article, another Rummage Sale will be over. Thank you to all who helped with setting up, selling, or donating items! Watch for more in the November Chimes!!

A **new** PW Circle has been formed. They are meeting once a month on the **THIRD** Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at Lois Osborn's home. If you are interested in being a part of this Circle, please contact Lois at 762-3340 or Sherri Fry 762-4994.

The Coordinating Team of the Presbyterian Women has voted to give to Habitat for Humanity as part of our mission donations. Another donation will be given to help the family at the time of the house's completion. The PW would like to encourage everyone to get involved with this wonderful project.

Watch the Chimes for upcoming news on the annual **PW CHRISTMAS BRUNCH**.

Sherri Fry, Moderator  
Presbyterian Women

**Circles:** Next meeting is Wednesday, October 4.  
**Good Morning Circle** meets at 9:00 am, at the home of Laona Perrin. **Serendipity Circle** meets at 1:30 pm, at the church. Hostesses are Idonna Minnick, and Carolyn Krause. **Evening Circle** meets at 5:30 pm, at the home of Lois Osborn. **CT** meets 10/18, in the church parlor at 9:00 am. Hilltoppers resumes Friday, 10/13, at Noon.

## Encounter with God

In New Mexico I often encountered people who told me that they knew Nebraska. They had driven I-80. And, I would think, and sometimes say, *“but you missed the Sandhills, the loops of the Loup Rivers, the gorge of the Dismal, the Pine Ridge, the Wildcat Hills, the strange rock formations in the North Plate Valley. You missed the small towns founded by hearty immigrants from Germany, or Slovenia, or Czechoslovakia or Sweden or Denmark. You missed the insight into the character, the tenacity, the resilience, the stubbornness that wrested this state from the wilderness.”*

A few weeks after I began using **Encounter with God**, I realized that I had been cruising along on the interstate in my daily devotionals. I was missing some of the beauty, some of the history, some of the heartiness of God’s messengers, some of the mystery, and, most of all, some of the character of the God who loves His people so passionately. The sequential daily reading of a particular portion of the Bible has opened my spirit to new insights and a greater knowledge of the God I serve. Won’t you join me?

This quarter we are reading in John, Ezekiel, Proverbs, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Matthew with Psalms on Sundays. Come, get off the interstate and encounter God.

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## Library Notes

Nancy Shaw has joined the library committee. We are very happy to have her!

We have placed a yellow file folder in the library office door pocket with volunteer projects detailed. If you are early for a meeting or have to wait for a ride or a friend, please check the folder for something to do in the library. Any help will be appreciated. For more information, please call Helen McConnell, 762-3677.

### [www.fpcalliance.org](http://www.fpcalliance.org)

That's right, we have a church web site. Nancy Shaw is our web master. She has done a great job creating the site, planning with the staff for its content, and making valuable suggestions that most of us would not know enough to ask about! We still have much to add to the site, but it is up and running. You will be able to check the church calendar, read the Chimes, listen to a past sermon, link to other missional groups in our denomination, and more. We would love feedback as to what you would like to see on the site and suggestions about what has been created so far. We say a big **thank you** to Nancy for all the work she has done on this project. We will work together to make it a valuable tool for the congregation and an outreach to the community.

### In appreciation of ...

The crew of women (Kathie Toedtli, Shelley Bartling, Shirley Edwards – others?) who were here very early, 9/1 – it was a cold, windy, almost rainy and dreary morning – in sweatshirts and gloves, set up ladders, and washed windows, both inside and out. Such a blessed gift. Thank you.

## Stepping Up In Faith – Part Two

The Prayer and Pastoral Care Group (PPCG) is working to build the ministry of prayer at First Presbyterian Church. One goal is for the Congregation to know how to pray for the church's mission and life. We know there is much prayer already. The answers are visible every where. However, we need a way to "pray on the same page" for the large, ongoing needs of the church. The large needs for prayer that come from our ministry groups (committees, boards, fellowships) are prayed for in those groups, but are not known in a consistent way by others. We also do not presently have a plan for the long term needs that do not yield to a short season of prayer. The PPCG and pastor are prepared to lead an exploration of how we might begin to pray for the ministry and mission of the church as a unified body. The first time for this exploration is October 20. You are invited to a covered dish dinner at the Pastor's home at **6:00 pm** that evening. Drinks and tableware will be provided. Please feel that you are welcome at this gathering. In a way it is a new ministry – or at least a new approach to a long treasured ministry at First Presbyterian Church. We want anyone who feels the Lord's tug towards a growing prayer life to know they are needed.

## Fellowship Five

The first Fellowship Five got off to a great start on September 17. Seventy-five folks gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a great meal. We had pies galore! Around our wonderful round tables the conversation was spirited and a great blessing. It was good to see people meeting folks they did not know. We hope you are planning on attending the next four gatherings: Sundays October 1, 15, and 29 and Nov 12. A free will offering may be made to help with the expenses, but you are welcome without charge. The next crew is at work planning a delicious meal.

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church  
 We want to thank you very much for the donation of food for our pantry. We have been averaging close to 130 food “boxes” a month lately and your donation was a big help.  
 God loves those who help others and we love you too!  
 Thanks again soooooo much!!  
 Just Neighbors,  
 Gene and Micky Aruffo

the past weeks two labors of love were brought to my attention. First, Kathy Toedtli, Karel Essex, Shelley Bartling, and Shirley Edwards washed all the windows in the Social Hall – inside and out! Well done! Second, Gene Gatti set to work to install the new ovens in the kitchen. He’s done great work. It will be wonderful to have our new convection ovens ready to use. Thanks, Gene. (And thanks to Presbytery Women for the purchase of these new ovens.)

Remember, if you have a nomination for “behind the scenes” please contact Pastor Roosa or the church office. We want to be a gracious church that says “thank you.”

### Family Rescue Services

Family Rescue Services would like to thank the congregation of First Presbyterian Church for their continued support through their monthly donations. We have been very busy over the past months and our food pantry and hygiene supply is very low. We are currently in need of the following items:

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Canned Soup               | Canned Meat             |
| Bottles of Juice          | Cleaning Supplies       |
| Feminine Hygiene Products | Diapers                 |
| Shampoo and Conditioner   | Laundry Detergent       |
| Garbage Bags              | Pasta and Sauce         |
| Cereal                    | Meat                    |
| Coffee and Tea            | Peanut Butter and Jelly |

We would like to let people know that we do have an upright freezer to keep perishables and frozen food items. We would be happy to pick up donations. We also accept gift cards for groceries.

Thank You,  
 Maria Swenson

### Behind the Scenes

We all say thanks to the many small and not so small jobs our church family member do gracious accomplish “behind the scenes.” Over

### The Annual CROP Walk

For nearly three decades the churches of the Alliance Ministerial Association have banded together in support of the annual CROP Walk. CROP Hunger Walks are "Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty"-- neighbors walking together to take a stand



against hunger in our world. Together the walkers raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting. We will gather at First Christian Church at 1:30 pm on October 15. The walk this year will follow the path of the Alliance Walking Trail through the heart of the city, ending at St. John’s

Lutheran Church for the closing meal. Stops along the trail will teach us much about global hunger and related problems. There will be some surprises! If you wish to make a contribution, take part in the walk, or both please contact Barb Kendle or the church office. Your participation is a blessing to all who walk and the funds raised are a great blessing to the work of the Kingdom.

## All Church Clean Up Day

**October 14 is the fall all-church clean up day. We hope you are able to join the fun. Your trustees will have a list of jobs that need our attention. They will also see to your lunch that day! If you have questions about the day please contact the moderator of our Trustees, Larry Debus.**

**Some jobs need tools and other items. We will have a list in the Narthex for you to check.**

### Hilltoppers

Hilltoppers resumes Friday, October 13, noon.  
Frank and JoAnn Tolstedt will be hosts.

### Deacon Greeters

10/1 Wilma Hutchinson, Don Hughart  
10/8 June Tolstedt, JoAnn Tolstedt  
10/15 Belva Krejci, Becky McKay  
10/22 Vickie Hughart, Pat Howell  
10/29 Jacci Irwin, Sherri Fry

### Ushers - October

Belva Krejci, George Krejci, Mildred Colwell,  
Thomas Sterkel

### Communion - Deacons

10/1 Don, Vickie Hughart, and Wilma Hutchinson  
10/2 Crossroads, has been moved to 10/9, 1:00 pm,  
JoAnn Tolstedt

### Greeters - October

10/1 Marty and Carolyn Jones  
10/8 Ardis Forster and Maryetta Lyman  
10/15 Larry and Sherri Curtiss  
10/22 Floyd and Barb Swanson  
10/29 Gary and Margaret Wichman

(Daylight Saving Times Ends)

### Anniversaries - October

6 Bruce and Pat Dobry  
11 Vic and Jane Krause  
17 Howard and Shirley Watson  
19 Louis and Phyllis Knoflicek

### Birthdays – October

1 Thelma Merritt-Trester  
5 Thomas Sterkel  
5 Moose Walker  
8 Jason Brown Angie Timmens  
11 Keith Lyster  
12 Martha Warday  
13 Nancy Brunner  
14 Karna Hansen Katie Hughart  
19 Pat Dobry  
20 Twila Hashman  
21 Julie Hernandez  
23 Sue Kammerer  
25 Osborn, Anna Marie  
26 Joshua Nason  
28 Jack Manion  
29 Sherrie Curtiss David McCarty  
30 Becky Halouska

### Flowers - October

10/1 Arden and Jeanne Rosenberger  
10/8 Ron and Janet Schlattmann  
10/15 Lloyd and Pat Howell  
10/22 Louis and Phyllis Knoflicek  
10/29 Robert Howard

### Liturgists - October

10/1 Pat Nelson  
10/8 Kathie Hutchinson  
10/15 Doris Kuhn  
10/22 Colleen Hood  
10/29 Jill Green

## For Worship

Please prepare yourself for worship in prayer and the Word. Pastor Roosa is preaching a series on the life of Joseph. You can find this story in Genesis beginning at Chapter 37. It would take only a few minutes to read through the whole story. In worship we only take a section at a time. Reading the whole flow of the story has a unique value.

Oct 1		<i>World Communion Sunday</i>	
Oct 8	Genesis 43:1-45:15	<i>Disaster's Ghost</i>	
Oct 15	Genesis 45:16-28	<i>Rust Turning to Gold</i>	
Oct 22	Genesis 46:1-7, 28-34	<i>The Heart Made Glad</i>	
Oct 29	Genesis 50:1-14	<i>Going Home</i>	Necrology Sunday
Nov 5	Genesis 50:15-26	<i>Come Forth As Gold</i>	

## In Remembrance

Each year on the last Sunday of October we remember our loved ones who have passed on to eternity during the year. If you have names to submit please use the form enclosed. You may place it in the offering plate on Sunday or return it to the church office. Please put your name and phone number on the sheet. If we have questions about pronunciation of a name we will call you.