

January, 2013



Tower Bell

Gracious Lord,

Gratitude has been called the 'way to greatness,' and expresses appreciation for what one has. Gratitude is what the one servant returned to give to Jesus after being healed by Him and gratitude is how Your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ, lived His life.

So, at the end of this year and the beginning of a new one, we pause to do the one thing (besides forgiveness, and we hope that we do that one daily too) that most makes us human and hopeful and joyful. We give You our gratitude, our thanks. For ... being our God, making us Your people, the breath of life that you have given each of us, families who love us and whom we love, homes that shelter us, friends who love and share with us, jobs that give us a sense of purpose as well as help us to earn a living and from which we joyfully give to You and Your service, a beautiful city, state and country, joyful music, a church of Your servants ... well, Lord, we could go on and on for the many wonderful blessings we receive each day.

Thank you, especially, for Easter and Pentecost. For the closeness of Your Son, Jesus the Christ, who showed us how to love and live in gratitude, and for Your Holy Spirit who abides with us at every moment. Thank you for resurrections every day.

Come upon us this day, and every day, and cause us to give You thanks, for in gratitude there is health and love and joy and hope!

For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, Yes!

Oh, and by the way, Lord, Happy New Year, for it is always a good year with You!

Love,

Your hope-filled, joy-filled, love-filled Servants at First Presbyterian Church in South Bend, IN

Dear Congregation,

I am very excited to be announcing that we will be starting a new program in our children's Sunday school. *Godly Play* is a program that has been used successfully for several years in various Christian churches around the world.

Godly Play is a curriculum modeled after the popular Montessori schools that are gaining in popularity around the country. Its focus is to teach children using a hands-on approach. The children will have the opportunity to hear a story, and then manipulate the materials used for the lesson on their own. They get to learn while they play! Once the story is learned, the children will then have the opportunity to make a piece of art that reflects their understanding of that story.

We are hoping to begin this new class for age groups PK- 1st Grade on **January 13 at 9:15 am in room 220** upstairs in the children's wing.

Ashlee Dollar, who has been doing a fantastic job in our Children's choir during second hour, will be coming upstairs to teach this class for us, and we want you to be a part of it. We will have more information about this class in the narthex soon, so keep your eyes open! **And don't forget, we will be having Sunday school for the children on January the 6th at 9:15.** Come join us, and bring a friend!

*Tim McFeeters,
Part-time Coordinator for Children*



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Birth—5th grade

Thank You!

It is important to say thank you on a regular basis. We would like to say thank you to a few special people who have helped to make our Sunday school programs possible. If you see one of these people, or you know one of them, be sure to tell them thank you! Thank you for being of service to our children and youth. I don't have the space to list everything that each person did, please tell them all thank you.

*- Sunday school teacher

Nursery

Janet Mwachande

Caroline Mwachande

Gwen Lofgren

Gail Carleton

Sunday school Teachers and Volunteers

Malou Audi

*Mike and Jen Byers**

Kathy Cates

David and Margaret Eggleston*

*Greg and Mary-Jane Lawson**

*Doug and Pam Marsh**

Donna Rehbein

*Liz Rosencratz**

*Carolyn Schult**

*Peggy Van Laere**

Children's Choir

*Ashlee Dollar**

Dottie Taylor

It is impossible to say how much we deeply appreciate these people who have stepped forward and helped to make our Sunday school programs what they are. Thank you so much, and may God bless each of you richly as you continue to serve our congregation.



**Children singing in worship,
Sunday, January 20.**

YOUTH MINISTRIES

6th grade—12th grade

For details, contact Joshua Vale, Part Time Youth Coordinator, at Joshua.vale@bethelcollege.edu



Adult Bible Study Class

January 20th will highlight a special speaker in our adult Bible study class.

Lea Lehavi, the newly appointed Jewish Agency Community Emissary to South Bend, will speak on the history of Israel through the personal story of her family. The presentation will contain five themes: immigration, pioneering, defending the land, growing up in Israel and Israel today.

Lea was born and raised in Herzilya and did her military service in the IDF's elite K-9 unit. She also worked for the IDF General Staff and Israel's General Security Service in V.I.P. protection.

Very active in volunteer work in informal education, Lea has been recognized by both the city of Herzilya and Israel's Ministry of Education for her efforts. In 2008 she was awarded the regional 'outstanding volunteer' for the Youth and Society Organization (given by the Ministry of Education) for the Tel Aviv region as well as 'Volunteer of Distinction' in the informal education category by the Herzilya Council.

Come join us on January 20, 2013, for an inspiring presentation.

Schedule for Adult Bible Study on

The Mighty Acts of God:

January 6: Chapter 13

January 13: Chapter 14

NOTES FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

If you didn't attend our Messiah Sing-Along on December 9th, you missed a spectacular event!

Our own *Bradley Krueger*, directed a 25 piece orchestra, a Harpsichord (thanks to the generosity of the Norman Family), soloists, and an audience that would surprise you with their abilities to sight-read the music as well as sing the intricate passages and melodies of Handel's Messiah. What a blessing it was to not only attend such an event, but it was in our 'home' church. I heard many comments from the guests sitting around me, each and every one was thoroughly enjoying the evening and are planning all ready to attend again next year. The first year there were about 50 in the audience. This year we had close to 150. Next year I hope to see the sanctuary completely full.

Please put the second Sunday evening on your calendar for 2013, it will be THE event of the season!

Fran English, Chair

Jubilee Christmas 2012 in Review

Joining together to sing carols, to wrap Christmas gifts, to sample Christmas cookies; sharing the preparations for a family's holiday: it's all part of Jubilee Christmas. This year's Jubilee was held at Sunnyside Presbyterian. 29 South Bend families, (with a total of 75 children at home) were invited to this year's event. 15 hosts from our congregation joined hosts from Sunnyside, Memorial and Westminster to help these families prepare for a happy holiday. Our church youth provided a soup mix for each family to take home.

Volunteers baked cookies for the event – some to eat while wrapping Christmas gifts and some for each family to take home for their children. Members of the congregation purchased gifts or helped provide the funds to buy Children's Bibles and grocery certificates. Additional help came from the Deacons and the Mission Committee. Parents attending Jubilee were also able to select children's clothing, warm jackets and coats to take home, and the drawing for several bicycles was, once again, a popular part of Jubilee.

It is always a heart-warming experience to meet these parents, to help them provide a happy Christmas for their children, to help take gaily wrapped presents disguised in black plastic bags to their cars or their homes, and to see our church helping to make a difference in the South Bend community. The members of the Mission Committee thank all of you who participated in this annual event.

Pam Proctor, Jubilee Chair



In Memory of:
Barbara Duvel Fox—December 23, 2012

Tower Bell is a publication of First Presbyterian Church of South Bend. We welcome all visitors!
Visit our website: www.fpcsouthbend.org or email: info@fpcsouthbend.org

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Return Service Requested

THE NEXT TOWER BELL DEADLINE IS
January 25



OUTREACH LUNCHESES

Midtown/South lunch group will meet **Wednesday, January 9, at 11:30**, at Allie's Café, Mishawaka Ave.

North Side lunch group will meet **Tuesday, January 15, at 12:00**, at Eleni's Restaurant, Roseland.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!