

POTWIN POST



Volume 19, Issue 9
www.potwinprestopeka.org

September 2008

Reflections

God's Big Back Yard

Our theme for this year's Vacation Bible School.

Throughout each day, we talked about service - service to family, friends, neighbors, community and Jesus. Each day we studied a Bible story to reinforce the different Bible stories, made crafts, collected canned goods and coins for Doorstep and school supplies for Meadows Elementary School. We also played games and had snacks each day.

Thanks to Debi Harvey, Libby Peters, Janet Halloran, Nellis Shaw and Gwen Jones who took the time to share their love and faith with the kids. Also thanks to Pat Abbey for the delicious cookies and drinks.

Quotes of the Month

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• “Any fool can count the seeds in an apple. Only God can count all the apples in one seed.”
 —Robert Schuller

• “No job is boring if we can see God’s purpose in it.”

Our prayers and sympathies go out to Linda Tuller and her family. Linda’s niece **Wendi Cushing** of St. Marys passed away on Saturday, August 9th. Funeral services were held on Thursday, August 14th in St. Marys.

Our prayers and sympathies also go out to the family of Jean Feyh. Jean, a long-time member of Potwin, passed away on Tuesday, August 12th here in Topeka. Funeral services were held at Mount Hope Cemetery on Friday, August 22nd.



tion to be
 erian Manor
 t 31st from

2:00pm – 4:30pm.

Memorial

Jean Feyh –

Janet Halloran

Cards are welcome, but no gifts please.

Ruth’s children are Jan Chase and Donna Wilkin. Her grandchildren are Ben & Amelia Chase

Families to Pray for this Month...

September 7th – Fern Larsen and family
 John & Cheryl Martin

September 14th – Jim Lee and family
 Vivian McCormick and family

September 21st – Leo & Claudia Luttjohann
 Grace McMillen and family

September 28th – John & Erica Poersch and family
 Candy Milavec and family

Activities & Information

Report from the Treasurer

July receipts-	\$5,685.85
Reserves	
Memorial Fund -	\$1,763.59
Cap Improvement/Reserve Fund -	\$1,750.47
CD (#5762664) -	\$4,389.67
CD (#95658) -	\$16,285.71
CD (#75721) -	\$5,300.29
Educational CU CD -	\$22,143.03
Reserve Total	\$51,632.76

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

- 1st – Labor Day – Church office closed
- 7th – Communion
- 13th – First Parents Morning Out of the fall (9am-12noon)
- 21st – Sunday School begins; October Potwin Post deadline

Worship in the Park – September 14, 2008 – 10:30am

We will be worshipping with our friends from Central at the Big Shelter House next to the Zoo in Gage Park. Worship will be followed by a potluck lunch. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share and their own table service.

Following lunch, at 1:00pm, there will be a town hall

Doorstep – “Christmas in July” Gifts

Thanks to Potwin for the following items:

Soap, lotion, shampoo, six kids’ toothbrushes, two adult toothbrushes, two brown bath towel sets and two amethyst towel sets, one large blue & white knit cap, six dressy extra large knit shirts in cream, black, & a blue & white flower & snowflake pattern, seven extra large sweatshirts & one large knit red jacket.

September:

Ushers: Brenda Strobel and Nellis Shaw

Children’s Sermons: Pat Abbey (14th)
Mary Charity (21st)
Gwen Jones (28th)

**The Deadline for the
October Potwin Post is
Sunday, September 21st.**

Potwin Presbyterian Church

400 SW Washburn Avenue
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Pastor
LaVonne Meadows, Secretary
David Ohse, Choir Director
Sharon Bayless, Organist
Linda Tuller, Treasurer
Janet Lafferty, Financial Secretary

SESSION

Ross Freeman, Moderator

<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Gwen Jones	Gary Baker	Don Wright
Hervey Wright	Joyce Black	
	Bob Fincham	

DEACONS

<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Janet Halloran	Libby Peters	Nellis Shaw
Belva Sandmeyer	Jane Sewell	
Brenda Strobel	Kim Strobel	

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Superintendent	- Gwen Jones
Nursery Attendant	- Betty Bass
Preschool/Grade School	- Gwen Jones
Middle/High School	-
Adults	-
Jr/Sr Hi Youth Group	- Gwen Jones
Substitutes	- Jane Sewell, Ann Fincham
Attendance Clerk	- Janet Halloran, Jane Sewell



• Labor Day,
September 1, 2008

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• National Grandparents
Day,
September 7, 2008



• Patriot Day
(remembrance of Sept. 11),
September 11, 2008

• National Hispanic
Heritage Month,
September 15-
October 15, 2008



• First Day of
Autumn,
September 22, 2008

This Month’s Chuckle

The loose change offering (coins and cash or checks so designated) in the month of September will go to the CROP Walk.

Please give



Youth News

BIBLE QUIZ

What was God's plan for Adam in the Garden of Eden?

- A. To till it and keep it
- B. To manage the animals
- C. To enjoy its beauty and the food all about him
- D. To fill it with people



Answer: A (See Genesis 2:15, NRSV.)

Messages & Thoughts

Fringe Benefits

Can faithfully attending worship actually raise your income? MIT economist Jonathan Gruber thinks so. In a study, he found that income increases by 10 percent when people double their church attendance.

Gruber proposes these possible reasons:

- Churchgoers join in fellowship with one another, resulting in social and job networking.
- They support one another during losses and setbacks. Such encouragement helps people do their best in all of life's endeavors.
- Churchgoers tend to be less stressed by everyday life, enabling them to work creatively and be more productive.

Boosting one's bank account isn't the reason most people go to church, of course. But it's interesting to note that worshippers reap both spiritual and earthly rewards.

Was that a compliment?

After a worship service, a pastor was greeting people at the front door. A woman shook his hand vigorously and said, "That was a very helpful sermon. You know, you ought to have your sermons put in a book."

"Thank you!" answered the pastor. "Maybe my wife will have some of them published after I'm dead."

"Well," responded the elderly saint, "the sooner the better."

Celebrate Labor Day

Labor Day, first celebrated in 1882, provides a day of rest for working Americans, showing their importance to the country's well-being.

Christians see work as a gift and command from God. Adam was put in the Garden to "till it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15, NRSV). Even Jesus chose workers to help carry out his mission.

Rest is just as significant as work. God commanded us to rest one day each week (Exodus 20:10). The Sabbath is a time for worship, family activities,

A prayer for perspective

A prayer written for use during the Jewish New Year (September 30-October 1) is pertinent for Christians, too:

Eternal God! Grant us gratitude enough to look
backward and be thankful;
courage enough to look forward and be hopeful;
faith enough to look upward and be humble;
kindness enough to look outward and be helpful.
Amen.

Sue Ann Seel is our pastoral care giver whose contact was coming due the end of August. She said she was willing to accept extending the relationship. She also commented how pleased she was the people were willing to open up to her when she visited them. Sue Ann said she does need more visibility within the congregation, other than the notices in the bulletin and the Post. And getting some kind of card showing she represents Potwin would also assist when she is visiting. The session approved an extension of her contract through the end of the year.

Thad Holcomb represents the Ecumenical Christian Ministries Mission within the PPC. He was here to talk about the church's mission, as well as to obtain the session's hopes - dreams - goals - failures with regard to Potwin's mission. Reverend Holcomb distributed sheets comparing the churches within the Presbytery with regard to their giving and praised Potwin for completing their per capita giving as well as their other mission giving. Some of the areas of mission within the local church discussed included Vacation Bible School, Loose Coin Offering, 12-step programs, support of VIDA, opening the church for local organizations such as Girl Scouts and the local neighborhood associations, the cooking class, pastoral care giver, support of the youth through camp scholarships and the Cookie Walk, as well as the regular mission offerings throughout the year. Some areas of concern were the small number of people doing most of the work, difficulty in getting volunteers from the congregation, and the ageing congregation. Reverend Holcomb said he'd bring these items back to the Presbytery Mission Committee.

Treasurer's Report: The session reviewed the Treasurer's Report for June and July, and the Financial Secretary's Reports for July. Receipts reported for July were \$5,685.85. Total disbursements were \$7,430.73 in June and \$4,663.95 in July, leaving a balance of \$9,323.15 in the general checking account. The reserve / memorial fund accounts and CD accounts total \$51,753.83. There are no outstanding debts. The reports were unanimously accepted.

An audit of the books has been completed and the report has been received. There were no problems or concerns found after the audit was completed.

A motion to dedicate the August Loose Coin Offering to Parents Morning Out was approved.

Parish Council Report:

Reverend Freeman informed the session that St Andrews has officially withdrawn from the any further discussions of the Parish or the Merger Committee. The Parish Council CDs mature the end of August. The treasurer will surrender the CD and put the money in the checking account. The Council should meet soon. It will take 2 meetings before anyone can withdraw the money from the account. There is approximately \$36,000 in the account to distribute among the churches.

Merger Exploratory Committee:

Central has agreed to continue discussions with Potwin at this time. There will be a combined worship service on September 14, 2008, with a potluck afterward, and a joint meeting held afterward to discuss the merger. Ed Thompson, General Presbyter, has developed a merger plan that could be used as a starting point.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Church Life/Worship Committee:

They are completing plans for the combined worship service on September 14th. There was no Communion in August because the first Sunday was the "5th Sunday" services at St Andrews. Communion will resume in September.

Mission Outreach:

The Joy Offering materials for October have been ordered. Due to the rain, the church opened Fellowship Hall to the Kenwood Neighborhood Association "Night Out Against Crime" meeting on Saturday night.

Properties:

The chiller panel on the air conditioner has been replaced and the fan was replaced under warrant.

Instigator Task Force:

Parents Morning Out's first fall meeting will be September 13th. Flyers have been distributed at enrollment and will be sent out monthly.

Christian Education Committee:

Sunday School will begin September 21st. They are also looking at short term studies for the adult Sunday School. The session voted unanimously to approve Adam Jones as the representative on the Youth Advisory Committee. Six children attended Vacation Bible School.

Unfinished / New / Other Business:

Bob Fincham moved and Gwen Jones seconded a motion to extend Sue Ann Seel's contract from September 1 - December 31st. This was approved.

The Wider Church – VIDA & Peacemaking/OGHS

Fall Update

Volunteers Needed – Starting September 3rd

It's time to start a new session of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at VIDA and we need your help with the following:

Conversation Partners – Wednesdays 7-8:30pm

Help ESL students practice their English by talking with them about provided materials. No Spanish skills required.

Childcare – Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 7-8:30pm

Provide childcare for the children in the nursery or computer room while their parents attend ESL classes.

Prayer – Thursdays at noon

Please keep VIDA Ministries in your prayers as we continue striving to establish a culturally sensitive, relational, relevant ministry in the Eastboro community. If you are available, please join us on Thursdays at noon at VIDA for a weekly prayer meeting.

For more information on volunteering with VIDA
please call Penny at 250-7000

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God",
said Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace (Matthew 5:9)*

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and its extended network of presbyteries and congregations are reshaping communities and the world through the reconciling peace of Christ. This year's Peacemaking Offering gets its theme, Break the Bread of New Creation, from the words of an Easter hymn by Brian Wren. Over and over again committed believers join with others in bringing about a new reality through Christ's peace.

The world is full of turmoil and pain – Darfur and many other places in Africa, Georgia, and Iraq are far away. But there is pain and suffering here in the United States. Presbyterians, both as a corporate body and as individual members, have always looked beyond ourselves and helped those in need through peaceful means. We must continue this legacy to promote peace and hope to all the world's suffering.

While World Communion Sunday (October 5th) is not part of the church's historic liturgical calendar, it has been an ecumenical observance since 1936. On this particular Sunday, we reaffirm our commitment to faithful witness in the world as we await the coming fullness of God's reign of peace. The Presbyterian Church (USA) has ecumenical relations with 165 church partner communions and many other organizations around the world.

During the next month, please prayerfully consider your commitment to this worthy cause.

Lectionary Readings for September

September 7 – Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

September 14 – Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

September 21 – Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

September 28 – Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32



POTWIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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