

February
2011

Tolono Pres News



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If you or someone you know would like a visit from a Deacon or the Pastor, please contact Rev. Kerry Bean at either 485-3725 or 485-5263.

First Presbyterian Church (USA)

104 E. Vine Street Tolono, IL 61880 (217) 485-3725

Church Potluck Dinner: Meet Director Dan of Camp Carew Sunday, February 20th at 11:45am

Come one, come all, and bring your vittles! We are holding our first potluck dinner of 2011! On **Sunday, 2/20, immediately after worship** everyone is invited to dig in to an amazing meal in the fellowship hall. Fried Chicken, beverages, and table service will be provided. We'll also post a signup sheet in the narthex of the church so folks can commit to bring veggies, fruits, desserts, etc.

This will also give everyone a

chance to meet **Dan Kingery, the Director of Camp Carew**. Carew is owned and operated by the Presbytery of SE Illinois- of which we are a part! Several campers from First PC-Tolono have attended the Summer Camps program during the last couple of years. Dan will be giving us an update on the latest happenings at Carew- as well as previewing this summer's camps. You do

not want to miss this event! The good folks from Philo PC are also invited. Yet another excellent reason to come!



"Director Dan" loves to fish!

Pastor's Page

This month marks the end of my second year as Designated Pastor here at First PC-Tolono- and the start of my third (and final) year. The next few months will be a time of pretty intense prayer and discernment as I try to understand to what ministries God is next calling me. There is a very good chance, I think, that God wants me to stay here in Tolono as your Pastor. But that is something that you all need to pray about as well. I know that there are areas of my ministry that I need to keep working on

Two Years Down, One to Go...

and improving. We need to continue to grow! We also all need to be aware that the Presbytery's support of my compensation package will be finished in Feb. 2012. That will add another \$12-13,000 to our church's budget- no small chunk of change.

As I stated at the annual meeting on 1/30, should I choose not to stay on, then I will work very hard to help you begin your search process for your next Pastor. I will essentially become your Interim Pastor- a role for

which I've taken special training.

So I encourage you to lift up the church- and me and my family- in your prayers. After all, it is God's vote that counts the most.

I continue to have a wonderful time serving with you and sharing in your ministries to this community and beyond. I am very much looking forward to another great year. But there is a lot of work to do, and your hands are needed. Come join me!

- Peace, Kerry



Shoeboxes packed by WYN kids for Operation Christmas Child find their way to Botswana

WYN begins its spring semester on Wednesday, February 9th at 5:30pm. Table parents and other volunteers are always needed! See article on p. 5

You may remember that late last year we told you about **Operation Christmas Child**, a ministry that helps children in the developing parts of the world to get much needed supplies like books, clothes, toys, and even some personal care items. The youth from our **Wednesday Youth Night** program (WYN) and Jr. High Youth Group packed dozens and dozens of shoeboxes full of such supplies.

In January we received confirmation that the boxes we packed and shipped have arrived in Botswana! In case you're a little rusty on your geography, Botswana is located in southern Africa. It has been an independent country since the 1960s. Although living

conditions have improved over time in the country, there is still widespread poverty and a high rate of unemployment. So the gifts in our boxes are really needed.

Operation Christmas Child is one of the most satisfying missions we support because it helps children throughout the world- and it is extremely hands on for our youth as well. The WYN kids also created Christmas cards and placed them in the boxes to greet the recipient children. What an amazing way to send the love of Christ!

Thanks go to the adults who provided the planning and logistics to make the Shoebox gifts happen. There were a lot of WYN parents who helped as well. If you want to find

out more information, type "Operation Christmas Child" in your internet search engine.

Prayer List

- Jack Hart and any others with ongoing health challenges.
- Safety for traveler during this time of severe weather.
- The homeless and those needing shelter..
- All those recovering from the floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and other disasters of nature.
- The military and their families facing separation and possible harm.
- The peoples of the Middle East who are living through turbulent changes in government, the continuing threat of terrorism, and little progress in the peacemaking process.
- The churches of our community and the Presbytery of SE Illinois.
- First Presbyterian Church of Tolono and our leadership as we seek God's will for the future.



Presbytery Meets Thurs. 2/10

The Presbytery of SE Illinois will hold its first (of five) meetings in 2011. The meeting is close by- in Effingham. One of the highlights of the meeting will be final discussion and voting on the adoption of the Belhar Confession into the PCUSA *Book of*

Confessions. There will also be discussion and voting on selected amendments to the Book of Order- sent to the presbytery from last year's General Assembly. If you would like to attend the meeting, let Kerry know before 2/7.

The per capita pledge for 2011 is \$37.91. This separate gift helps cover the administrative expenses of the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly, It does not directly support mission.

Session Meeting Highlights: January 2011

Our session met on Tuesday, 1/18. We opened with prayer and devotions and then approved our previous minutes with a couple of small changes. Then we moved on to committee reports.

CE reported that WYN would be starting back up on February 9th. (See article on p. 5) There will also be a PTYG meeting on 1/30.

Worship: Ash Wednesday falls on March 9th this year. We'll again have a service that involves the congregation and the WYN kids.

Mission: Presbytery sent a

letter reminding us that mission giving is distributed in the following ways: 38% for the General Assembly, 12% for the Synod, and 50% towards the missions of the Presbytery.

The Per Capita pledge- a separate donation that goes towards meeting the administrative expenses of the Presbytery, Synod, and GA- has been set at \$37.91. Session will encourage the members of the church to honor a per capita pledge in addition to their regular offering.

A special offering to support the ongoing work of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

program in Haiti was approved for 2/20.

Finance: We looked at the final 2010 financial report- which will be included in the Annual Report presented at the congregational meeting on 1/30. We made sure that all gifts to the building fund and memorial fund will be transferred in from the General Fund.

As part of his pastor's report, Kerry confirmed that three new members- Vicki and Jeremiah Buffo and Kelli Murphy- wish to be welcomed into the church on 1/30. Session folks will meet with them on 1/23 to examine them and answer their questions...

Our Deacons:

- Linda Smith
- Betty Pacquin
- Jeff Fisher



Annual Meeting Highlights: 1/30

The First PC-Tolono annual congregational meeting took place on Sunday 1/30 in the sanctuary. Rev. Kerry Bean moderated and Clerk Chris Schweighart provided reports and took minutes.

After an opening prayer and the establishment of a quorum, the Clerk read minutes of the previous congregational meeting and provided her Annual Report.

Most of the Session Committee Reports

(Mission, CE, Memorial, Buildings and Grounds, Hand in Hand Daycare) were then presented for members' review- along with the Pastor's Annual Report.

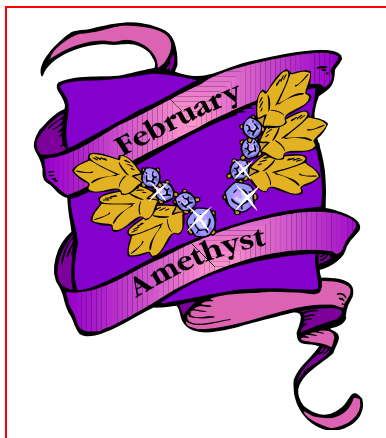
Finally, the Budget and Finance Committee presented its final 2010 financial report. Treasurer Tracy Wilson reported that the church finished 2010 with approx. \$6000 more in income than in expenses. She also indicated that some of that income will be transferred

into savings accounts for the Building fund and the Memorial Fund. Wilson also thanked the members for their generosity and stepping up to the plate when faced with the church's financial challenges of 2009.

The congregation reviewed the 2011 budget approved by the session and voted to support a 2% increase in the pastor's compensation per action by presbytery. The meeting was then adjourned

Session Members:

- Chris Schweighart, Clerk
- Susie Fisher
- Gary Fisher
- Jeannette Hulick
- Delores Lucas
- Tracy Wilson
- Autumne Fisher
- Rev. Kerry Bean, Pastor



Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday 1	Wed. 2	Thursday 3	Friday 4	Saturday 5
6 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship and Communion	7 Prayer Group Mtg. 7pm at the Manse	8 Session 7pm	9 WYN 5:30pm	10 Presbytery Mtg. Effingham 10am	11	12
13 9:15am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship	14 Happy Valentine's Day	15	16 WYN 5:30pm	17	18	19
20 9:15am Adult Sun. School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Pot Luck Dinner/PTYG	21  11:30am Friends of Church Buffet Lunch	22	23 WYN 5:30pm	24	25	26
27 9:15am Adult Sun. School 10:30am Worship	28 Prayer Group 7pm Manse					

February Lay Leaders

- Jeri Brooks - 2/6
- Cary Woolard - 2/13
- Jeff Fisher- 2/20
- Susie Fisher- 2/27

Feb. Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 2/3 Anna Jane Bretzlaff
- 2/10 Paul Tabaka
- 2/16 John Flavin
- 2/17 Amanda Robeck
- 2/19 Kati Smith
- 2/23 John Frasca
- 2/26 Andrea Hawn
- 2/2 John and Andrea Hawn
- 2/22 Dean and Bonnie Bonnell
- 2/28 John and Karen Collins

Philo Tolono Youth Group (PTYG) announces their Spring Calendar

At their first meeting of this year, the good folks of the PTYG announced their spring and early summer schedule. Here it is:'

Sunday, 2/20 Potluck Dinner after church at Tolono PC. Immediately after meal, PTYG will meet with Director Dan of Camp Carew to discuss April Retreat

Sunday 2/27: Meeting at Aaron Larson's House, Bourne Street, Tolono

Sunday, 3/13: Mission meal at the Philo PC

Sunday, 3/27: Winter Jam Concert @ Assembly Hall. Doors open at 5:00pm

Friday-Sunday 4/8-10 Retreat at Camp Carew in Makanda, IL

Saturday 5/7- Rent a Teen Work Day

Sunday, 5/15 Meeting at Fergie's House, 2-4pm Benham St. Tolono

Sunday 6/12 Cook-out

Saturday 6/25 Tolono Fun Day

Saturday-Friday 7/2-7/8 Mission Trip

The PTYG Mission Trip 2011

Plans are in the works for the PTYG to head to Toronto, Canada for this year's mission trip.

Once again, PTYG is coordinating the trip with Youth Works, an organization that specializes in hosting mission trips. This is the third year that our group has worked with Youth Works.

While our mission workers do not yet have the exact nature of their service in the large Canadian city, past experiences indicate that working directly with

youth in challenging financial situations- and helping to repair and renovate low income housing will be on the work list.

The group has been busy fundraising for the mission trip. In Nov-Dec of 2010, they sold Christmas greenery to raise funds. In addition, the proceeds from the Mystery Dinner Theatre production went to help meet expenses of the trip.

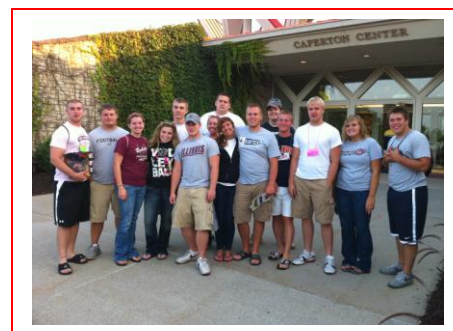
PTYG is now beginning the process of signing up for the trip and getting the necessary papers (like a passport!) for the trip up North.

If you are a Senior High Youth- or know one who'd like to join PTYG, you can contact Susie Fisher or Bonnie Woolard of Tolono PC- or Mary Simon at Philo PC. You can also leave a message with Kerry at 485-5263 or even text him at (618) 314-2298.

WYN Resumes 2/9

WYN and the Junior High Youth Group will be starting up again on Wednesday, February 9th. The semester will meet Wednesday evenings from 5:30-8, ending on April 27th with a carnival open to families and the congregation. Ash Wednesday Service will be on March 9th, open to families and the congregation-details will be coming soon. There will not be WYN/Jr Hi during spring break on March 23rd. Ages Kindergarten-8th grade are welcome to attend. Cost is \$28 for 1st child and \$24 for the each child after that.

Registration will be the first evening, but don't hesitate to join us if you can't make it the first night. If you have questions or comments, please call the church office at 485-3725.



First Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Kerry Bean,
Designated Pastor



We're on the Web!

See us at:
tolonopresbyterian.org

Session Approves Special Offering for PDA-Haiti

At their January meeting, the session of First PC-Tolono approved a special offering to support the work of the PCUSA's Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program in Haiti. The PDA has been instrumental in helping the people of Haiti during the past year since the earthquake that

devastated the poor island nation in the Caribbean.

We took a special offering shortly after the earthquake in '10, but the need has not lessened in Haiti. Rather has become greater. PDA is shifting from giving emergency supplies to helping people by getting them medical and dental care, trying to

provide housing, and getting schools back up and running. Relatively little aid is making its way into Haiti through government sources, because the Haitian government is so unstable. So, the church must continue to help. The Special Offering will be taken during worship on Sunday 2/20.

Would you like a visit from Pastor Kerry or one of the Deacons?

Kerry and our board of Deacons would love to come and visit you. There are several ways to contact and invite us: leave a message at the Church office: 485-3725. Or call Kerry directly at the manse: 485-5263 or on

his cell: (618) 314-2298. You can also text him on his cell. You can even drop him an e-mail at kerrybean@frontiernet.net

Kerry is always available to make a hospital visit- but you have to contact

him because the hospitals won't. For home visits, Kerry is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Our Deacons, of course, include Linda Smith, Betty Pacquin, and Jeff Fisher. You can check the church directory for their numbers.

About Our Church...

We are affiliated with the Presbyterian Church USA and belong to the Presbytery of SE Illinois.

Our traditional worship service is held at 10:30am

and nursery care is provided. All are welcome.

We are also part of the Tolono Ministerial Alliance and we support the Tolono Emergency Fund.

An important mission that we provide for our community is the Hand in Hand Daycare. For more information, call 485-5542.

FIRST PC(USA)
104 E. Vine
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