

**TOLONO PRES NEWS**

NOVEMBER 2009 EDITION

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

**PASTOR'S PAGE** 2  
**MISSION INFO** 3  
**MORE MISSION INFO** 4  
**SR. HIGH** 4  
**CALENDAR** 5

**MANY, MANY THANKS!**

I just want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in and attended the Murder Mystery on October 25<sup>th</sup>. We had so much fun! The food was wonderful and spirit of fellowship was great. Everywhere I looked there were folks cooking and serving and cleaning up.

I had an especially good time working with the cast and crew members as we put the show together. It was tremendous fun.

Again, thanks to everyone! I hope we can do it again sometime soon- like maybe next year!

Kerry



**TOP  
STORIES**

- November is looking like an important month for the church!
- Start gathering items for The Shoebox Project!
- Senior High Youth Group on the move!

**KNOW YOUR SESSION MEMBERS!**

**Chris Schweighart**- Clerk  
485-5195

**Delores Lucas**- Memorial  
485-5197

**Jeannette Hulick**- Mission  
485-5678

**Susie Fisher**- CE/  
Personnel  
485-5358

**Cheryl Smith**- Treasurer/  
Finance/Personnel  
598-2510

**Gary Fisher**- Buildings &  
Grounds

485-8120

**Barb Kelley**-  
Membership/Finance  
485-5547

**Jim Wilson**- Buildings &  
Grounds/Worship  
485-5730

**Jeri Brooks**- Worship/  
Buildings & Grounds  
637-5464

**Rev. Kerry Bean**-  
Designated Pastor

Cell phone number-  
618-314-2298

Email address-  
kerrybean@frontiernet.net

Skype account:  
Kerrybean1

## PASTOR'S PAGE

## A Very Important Month in the Life of our Church

This month will be one of the most important months that First Presbyterian Church of Tolono has ever seen. That's because on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, we are inviting all of our members to attend worship and to participate in the **Harvest Thanksgiving Stewardship Campaign**. Just as a reminder, that means that we will be taking a **special offering** to help the church better meet some of its 2009 expenses- and we'll be filling out **pledge cards for 2010**. That will help our Session to set a more realistic budget for the year to come.

In addition, last Sunday we announced that there will be a **special congregational meeting on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship**. We will be discussing and voting on whether or not to sell the church's approximately 80 acres of farmland in Douglas County. The session is recommending that we sell, but this is a decision that the *congregation* makes- in consultation with the Trustees of the Presbytery. The Presbytery will be represented at the meeting. Jeff Hutchinson, the Transitional Executive Presbytery, will attend- as will Marcia Carr from the Committee on Ministry. Marcia has been meeting with the Session over the past couple of months. If you have any questions about the meeting, please feel free to call me at the church 485-3725 or (618) 314-2298 or e-mail me at [kerrybean@frontiernet.net](mailto:kerrybean@frontiernet.net).

But wait, there's more!

First PC is also hosting the **Community Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**. It should be a beautiful service, with the chance to worship beside your friends and neighbors.

It would be hard to overstate how important it will be for you and your family to be in attendance at all three of these events. Your voice and your participation are essential to ensuring that the future of First Presbyterian Church will be promising and exciting. But I urge in the strongest terms that I can as Pastor that you make every effort to be here. I will even be so bold as to ask you to change any plans you've made that might conflict with them. It's that important. (We will be providing alternative ways for you to contribute to the Stewardship Campaign. Check your mail.)

My hopes and prayers for our congregation are based in two things: knowing how much God loves us and knowing how much our members love our church. I look forward to seeing a lot of you during this essential month of November!

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (AKA "THE SHOEBOXES")**

It's shoebox time again! Here's what you do:

**1. SHOE BOX**

Use an empty shoe box (standard size, please) or a small plastic container. If you do not have a shoebox, pick one up at church. You can wrap the box (lid separately), but wrapping is not required. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift.

**2. BOY OR GIRL?**

Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Print out the appropriate boy/girl label at <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/pdf/PackABoxwithLabels.pdf> or pick some up at church. Mark the correct age category on the label, and tape the label to the top of your box.

**3. FILL WITH GIFTS**

Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child. Use the gift ideas provided on the bottom of this page.

**4. INCLUDE YOUR DONATION**

Please donate \$7 or more for each shoe box you prepare to help cover shipping and other project costs. You can give online by using our EZGIVE option, or you can write a check to Samaritan's Purse (note "OCC" on memo line) and place it in an envelope on top of the gift items inside your box. If you or your family are preparing more than one shoe box, please make one combined donation.

**5. DROP OFF**

Place a rubber band around each closed shoe box and deliver it to the church **NO LATER THAN SUN. NOV. 15.** Jeannette Hulick will then take them all to Meadowbrook Church in Champaign, which is our closest collection drop-off point.

**GIFT IDEAS:****OTHER**

Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

**A PERSONAL NOTE**

In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

For more information on Operation Christmas Child, go to:

<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/OCC/>

**TOYS**

small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

**HYGIENE ITEMS**

toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

**LAKOTA RESERVATIONS WINTER CLOTHING COLLECTION**

Our winter clothing collection will end on Nov. 1. All donations will then be sent to the Native American Heritage Association in South Dakota, which will distribute them to families on nearby reservations. Once again we have had generous donors volunteer to pay for postage. Thank you for your donations!

**A MISSION PRAYER**

Dear God, we thank for always being at work in the world on behalf of those you created. Thank you for stories of your faithfulness that keep us connected as your people. Keep us faithful in prayer and diligent in service for all those whom you love. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

(from the "Mission Yearbook" page of the PCUSA website)

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP ON THE MOVE!**

Philo-Tolono Youth Group (PTYG) is off to a great start. Our first meeting was held at Friedemann's in Philo with 14 youth attending. A discussion was held about the upcoming 2010 Mission Trip and the group split into teams to sell holiday greenery around Philo. Our second meeting was held on Sunday, October 11 at the Fergusons in Tolono. The group narrowed down the two mission trip destinations to Atlanta, Georgia and Mingo County, West Virginia—a final decision will be made soon. The group again split up to sell holiday greenery to Tolono residents. Our goal is to sell over 100 items!

**Sunday, November 8 3 – 5 p.m.**

Parent Information Meeting at Matt Franks's home in Philo

The group will view last year's mission trip video, and trip packets and youth covenants will be distributed. The youth will also be learning about Paul via a new video series.

**Sunday, November 22 1 – 5 p.m.**

Fisher Farm in Tolono

Sort, Bag and Delivery Greenery Orders

PTYG is open to any senior high youth. The group's motto is mission, study, fellowship and fun! Upcoming events include a Christmas party, a pasta fundraising dinner in February, more lessons about Paul, and other activities.

This year's members include: Emily Bonnell, Chris Berger, Austin Buhnerkemper, Alex Ferguson, Emily Fisher, Matt Franks, Collin Friedemann, Danni Gooch, Ryan McCoskey, Hannah Miller, Elsa Reifsteck, Luke Rund, Danny Shroyer, and Josh Woolard.

# NOVEMBER 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship 10:30am	2	3	4 WYN 5:30pm	5	6	7
8 Worship 10:30am	9	10 7pm Session	11 WYN 5:30pm	12	13	14
15 Worship 10:30am	16 Friends Lunch	17	18 WYN 5:30pm	19	20	21
22 Worship 10:30am	23	24 Thanksgiving Service 7pm	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving!	27	28
29 Worship 10:30am	30					

## Birthdays!

11-9 Linda Fisher  
 11-11 John Reifsteck  
 11-14 Bill Stevens  
 11-15 Stephanie Ferguson  
 11-15 Brian Fisher  
 11-17 Jay Rogers  
 11-18 Marvin Little  
 11-19 Morgan Cross  
 11-19 Brad Hulick  
 11-19 Becky Maxwell  
 11-23 Miles Owens  
 11-24 Herman Duggins  
 11-24 Courtney Hatfield  
 11-27 Joel Evans

## Anniversaries!

11-9 Chris & John Schweighart  
 11-23 Greg & Autumnne Fisher  
 11-24 Carl & Delores Lucas

**Lay Leaders**    11-1 Jeannette Hulick    11-8 Linda Smith  
                          11-15 Bill Stevens    11-22 Tracy Wilson  
                          11-29 Cary Woolard

Please sign up to be Ushers for the months of November and December! Duties include passing out the bulletins before church service and collecting the offering. Let Jeri Brooks know if you are interested and/or sign up in the Narthex. Thanks for your help!

New Church Website-

<http://www.tolonopresbyterian.org>

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF TOLONO**

104 E. Vine St.

Tolono, IL 61880

Phone: 217-485-3725

Email: [tolonopres@yahoo.com](mailto:tolonopres@yahoo.com)

Worship is every Sunday at 10:30 am.

Adult Sunday School is at 9:15am and Children Sunday School is at 9:30am.

The Quilting Group meets every Wednesday at 1pm in the church basement. All are welcome!

The Friends of the Church meet for lunch of the third Monday of each month at 11:30am at the Hometown Buffet on North Prospect in Champaign. Everyone is welcome to join!

Please visit our new website for more information! [www.tolonopresbyterian.org](http://www.tolonopresbyterian.org)