

Tower Tidings

September 2012



From the Heart by Pastor Katie

Two Horses

Up the road is a field with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if you stop your car or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing. Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but instead given him a good home. This alone is amazing.

But if you listen, nearby you will eventually hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to her halter is a small bell which lets her blind friend know where she is so he can follow her.

So as you stand and watch these two companions you will notice how the horse with the bell is always checking on the other horse who can't see, and how he listens for the bell and then slowly walks to where she is, trusting that he will not be led astray. When the blind horse returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, she stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friend is not too far behind unable to hear the bell.

And like the owner of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. He watches over us and brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need. There are times when we might be the blind horse guided by the ringing bell of those God has placed in our lives; other times we are the guide that God sends into the life of others so he can use us to help others to hear and see Christ's grace.

This is a good description of our life together as a church as we minister to one another and to our community. As we plan for the Fall and kick off Sunday School in a fun way and make budget and program plans for 2013, may each of us think to ourselves about how we need God's guidance through our church family to accompany each of us on our life in this world; and, how at the same time we can be the guide for others around us through our service, involvement, prayers and giving.

Listen for your Lord's bell as we are remembering to listen for yours!

Lovingly, Pastor Katie

See additional items from Pastor Katie on page 6 of this newsletter.

Celebrating 170 Years

*Plans have been made to celebrate this special occasion
on Sunday, October 28th.*

- Members are asked to wear something plaid that day.*
 - A bagpiper will be performing.*
- A special birthday cake will be served following the worship service.*

Please mark your calendar for this celebration!

Sunday School RALLY DAY BREAKFAST
September 9th — 9:00 –9:45 am
In the Fellowship Hall

The breakfast is a “potluck” or you may sign-up with Betty McFarland at 762-5151 for a special dish you would like to bring. PLEASE try to come as our goal is to fill the Fellowship Hall for breakfast.

There will be a special RALLY DAY program during the worship service that morning. All children involved in the program should meet with Pastor Katie in the sanctuary after you have had breakfast.

A project for the Monticello Celebration will be worked on following breakfast and finished in Children's Church. If any of the children would like to participate in the Monticello Celebration, please mark your calendar for the 15th from 10 am to 4 pm. Kairos will have a game for children at the celebration. Donations of books and stuffed toys are needed for this game. You can leave donations in the Kairos hallway. Thanks you!

New curriculum “One Room School House” will be used for the 2012-2013 Children's Sunday School.

Sunday school will resume on September 16th from 9:00 – 9:45 am.



Kairos School

By Betty McFarland

As the Kairos School year begins, we would like to welcome our new assistant teacher, Jessica Brazelton. As of August 26th, there are 74 children registered for the 2012-2013 school year. There are a few openings in the M-F pm 4/5-year-old class, M-W-F am 4-year-old class and M-W-F pm 3-year-old class. What a blessing it is for our church to have such a wonderful outreach program for our community and all surrounding communities.

Calendar

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| September 4 & 5 | First Day of School |
| September 14 | Field trip to the Champaign Fire Station |
| September 15 | Monticello Celebration—Kairos has a game for children to play |
| September 17 & 18 | Hand washing lesson (Kairos Policy) |
| September 24 & 25 | Disaster awareness lesson |
| September 26 & 27 | Pictures will be taken individually and classes |
| October 5-22 | Fundraiser catalog |
| October 14 | Kairos Day at Church |



Clown Report (Jesters for Jesus)

Is summer really over?! How did that happen? The Jesters had a chance to rest up for the Fall season, and our youngest clown is full of enough energy for all of us!

We will meet again on Sunday, September 2nd, after our morning worship service. It will be a time of “mapping out” our future plans for the year. We might appear on the square at the Monticello Celebration on September 15th, if the weather is not too hot.

A clown graduation for Paula Connelly is in “the works”. We also need to “brain storm” to create a new show. It will be fun to teach “P.J.” some new skits . . . he is a fast learner.

Until next time, “Butterfly” the clown

Presbyterian Women—Fall Activities

September 10 Mary/Martha Circle Meetings Paula Connelly (Chair) Horizon Bible Study
Meets the second Monday of each month September—May

September 11 Friendship Circle Meetings Janice Shiffer (chair) Miscellaneous Study
Meets the second Tuesday of each month September—May

First Presbyterian Church Bridgeport will be hosting this years PW Fall Gathering. It will be held on Saturday, September 29th at 10 am. Folks will gather for coffee and goodies about 9:30 am. Our own Pastor Katie has been invited to be the preacher that day on the theme “River of Hope” based on Psalm 46:4-5. Lets carpool and make it a fun day!

Monthly Committee Meetings:

Christian Education will meet every 2nd Wednesday at 7:15 pm

Missions will meet every 3rd Sunday after worship (Sept.-Dec.)

Worship will meet every 1st Wednesday at 7 pm

**Interested in joining the choir
but need a babysitter. . .
please call Betty McFarland at 752-5151**

Fifth Sunday Offering

On Sunday, November 30th, the Mission Committee will be taking our first Fifth Sunday special offering for **FAITH IN ACTION**. This summer, Session voted to focus on local community needs by designating the fifth Sunday to collect these special donations in addition to our own church offering. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to help our neighbors by contributing generously.

On the 30th, the director, Julie Glawe, will talk about Faith in Action in our Minute for Mission. This volunteer care giving ministry is designed to be the helping hands and hearts to the community. It is a home and community based outreach program targeting senior adults in the Piatt County area. Faith in Action organizes caring people (volunteers) of all faiths who wish to offer support and companionship to senior adults. The program has over 30 collaborative partnerships with congregations in the Piatt County area. Services include transportation for doctor appointments and errands, short-term meal preparation, telephone reassurance, companionship/visiting, grocery shopping, chores and respite care.

More items from Pastor Katie

Sunday School Kickoff

On the morning of September 9th at Sunday worship we will kick off our new Sunday School year. The theme will be the Wizard of Oz and we will be reminded that there is no place like home in Christ. Come see what the youth have prepared for you! We will be offering One Room School House for our Elementary age kids. And youth and adults will meet in the fellowship hall to learn about and make Chrismons, which are ornaments made in the shape of Christian symbols, for our first tree this Christmas.

College/Youth Age Dinner with Pastor Katie

A popular ministry in past churches for Pastor Katie has been the college age dinner with the pastor. This group has served to bridge the gap that happens once our young people get to high school and college, outgrow the youth group and find nothing else to keep them in the church. It has proven to be successful in retaining our young adults through this ambiguous time in their lives. Pastor Katie will meet with them at 6:00 pm for dinner on the last Thursday night of most months. That seems to work best for our current college age group of young adults. The second meeting will be on September 27th at The Red Wheel. See you there! **Call to RSVP.**

Pastoral Care

Pastor Katie is very interested in getting to know her church family and making sure that all pastoral care needs are being met. She has also made hospital visits, a couple of home visits where invited or where there is a need. She would like the congregation's help in identifying those with pastoral care needs. If you know of someone who would benefit from a pastoral visit or that someone is in the hospital, she would rather hear twenty times about someone than miss them. Care for our church family is one of her highest priorities. So, please call the church office or Pastor Katie's cell phone number 217-597-6455 if you know of anyone in need of a visit.

Presbytery Meeting

Pastor Katie and our elder commissioner will be in Decatur on September 20 for the Fall Presbytery meeting. Pastor Katie and Pastor Kerry Bean will be the celebrants for communion. Be in prayer for their safe travel and a productive meeting of our Southeastern Illinois Presbytery

Stephen Ministry News

Our new Stephen Leaders will be formally commissioned and presented with their name badges on September 23rd. All of our Stephen Ministers will lead worship together including two skits that will help the congregation to know more about how Stephen Ministry works. A cake and punch reception will follow this special worship and commissioning.