

# Presby Pages

## ***First Presbyterian Church***

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## Summer 2010

**Summer worship hours during July and August are  
one service at 9:00 am**

Refreshments from the deacons follow in Fellowship Hall

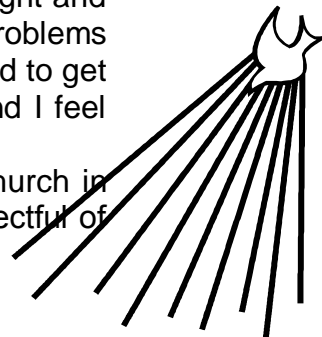
### **HUGH'S VIEWS**

Like many of you in our congregation, I am struggling with the purposes of God's will in the life of family members and fellow disciples with whom we worship and serve. Our Presbyterian tradition emphasizes how God uses each of us and whatever happens around us to serve the greater purposes of the Kingdom. We are not promised to understand these transcendent reasons and are often left in wonder and amazement.

This past month I had to say "goodbye" to Colleen Ashley, one of our strongly faithful and amazing saints of the faith. I know you grieve with me. Again, I certainly appreciate all those who helped care for Colleen and Jonathan plus worked hard on her memorial service and fellowship hour following. Thanks!

Running parallel was a great deal of anxiety I had about my 90 year-old parents. My dad is improving and may return to their retirement, older-adult community apartment in two weeks. Meanwhile, my mom is very distraught and suffering not from physical ailments – like the constellation of medical problems afflicting my father – but confusion and forgetfulness, a condition only fated to get worse. I know many of you have dealt with similar family challenges and I feel your sympathetic and knowing prayers.

Two thoughts – while I rush around caring for members of the church in life's many crises, more than a few of whom are older adults, I feel neglectful of



my parents in Missouri. But it is not true. While I work here in our vineyard, Rev. Greg Esselman works in his. Greg is my parent's pastor and one of my favorite people on earth and also a trusted ally for my brother and sister, each of whom have drawn deeply on his wisdom and compassion and loyalty to my parents. I appreciate our extended "family" of faith and know how God has given us each other in support.

And I have to say, my sister Lynne and brother John have rallied around my parents in support of their concerns and needs, while we three have worked hard among ourselves to distribute the work and share the load and find cooperation on pressing matters important to our parents' care. We all know plenty of stories where such urgency and pressure have divided and paralyzed. I find it a matter of God's grace to thank them for their collaborative work. In the end, Mom and Dad prosper because of it and we find the validation of St. Paul's bizarre and strange claim, 'when I am weak then I am strong' (2 Cor 12:10).

While we struggle with God's sometimes hidden and silent divine will, we have to remember how Paul taught us to honor God's redeeming of even the bad and difficult life events (Gen 50:20) and his words of the church at Rome:

*We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose (Rom 8:28).*

While we reflect on our faith and our lives, we can treasure these guiding and healing words – no matter what happens next.

## **VBS**

Vacation Bible School will be offered this summer on **five consecutive Wednesdays** – July 7, 14, 21, 28 and August 4; 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the church. Tell your family and friends! Our theme this year is "High Seas Expedition." You may register at the door or by filling out form(s) and mailing them to Tina Wallace. We can send one to you electronically, mail you a hard copy or you can pick one / more up in the entryway to the sanctuary.



## REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

+++Our next **Healing Service** will be Thursday, July 1st  
7:00 pm in the sanctuary  
In August, we will gather on Thursday, the 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm



+++**PW** meets again in September

+++**Nuts and Bolts** will gather on Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> and  
August 11<sup>th</sup> at noon

+++**Men's Breakfast** will be on Sundays, July 11<sup>th</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup>  
at **7:30 am**, Mountainside Diner, Byram



## WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup> Rev. John Arendt will be our guest preacher  
Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup> We will celebrate communion, welcome new members  
and baptize Caeden Ronda  
Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup> We will be baptizing Leo Delia, infant son of Justin and  
Rachel (Indano) Delia  
Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas in July! O come all ye faithful . . .



## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

We wanted to highlight the endowment funds of the church this month, followed by a more detailed explanation of each fund in successive months during the Fall of 2010.

The Stephen Fund has \$4177.82 and is designated to mission causes. The Priscilla Fund has the same total and serves Christian Education. Bezalel Fund is reserved for building / grounds and totals \$6207.71 while our self-loan Good Steward Fund has \$23,026.95. Only the interest income may be used for the first three funds, while a self-loan may be borrowed by the Session for capital projects but must be paid back. Gifts to the funds are always welcome!

Watch the newsletter for more information over the next few months.

*"Store up for yourselves treasures  
in heaven, where moth & rust do  
not destroy, & where thieves do not  
break in and steal."  
Matthew 6:20*



“But you are  
a chosen people...  
that you may  
declare the praises  
of him who called  
you out of  
darkness into  
his wonderful  
light.”

1 P e t e r 2 : 9