It’s October and so you know what that means—it’s time for a series of sermons on stewardship! Somehow, I know that the announcement of that news is not being received with the same enthusiasm as if I had just told you that you’ve been chosen to receive a brand new and free iPhone. That’s because most of us have the wrong mentality about stewardship.

Many of us have long made the mistake of assuming that stewardship is the time when churches figure out the budget for the next year and, in that effort, they try to squeeze as much money out of their members as they possibly can to support their intended endeavors. In other words, when we hear that it’s stewardship season, many will assume that it’s only about money. Because of that, many folks who are well acquainted with the rhythms of the church calendar will start preparing right now to tune out or even avoid the sounds of Stewardship. Some may even move through the stewardship season without ever giving any consideration to how their personal relationship with Jesus Christ can be improved by means of improving their stewardship.

Of course, if this or any other church uses the stewardship season for nothing more than to talk about the finances of the church, they shouldn’t be surprised when the members are unmoved by the message. Christian Stewardship is about our relationship with Jesus Christ. The money that we possess is simply a good starting point for questions pertaining to the quality of our relationship with Christ as it extends to all areas.

Along those lines, recently I have been guided by the Holy Spirit back to the words of Jesus found in the passage listed above from the book of Matthew. It reminds me that even though I have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord of my life, that doesn’t mean that I am completely devoted to that relationship as I need to be. The existence of my relationship with Christ doesn’t mean that it is finished. If I truly care about that relationship, I will be willing to review it and evaluate it and seek to improve it.

Jesus speaks of all of these things here in Matthew. He goes right to the core of that relationship by reminding us that when our relationship with Him suffers it is because we have chosen to avoid losing our life for His sake. This idea; this message is what will run in and through all of this year’s messages on the subject of Stewardship.

Listed below is the schedule and Scriptures for my stewardship series:

**Stewardship Series—“First Things First”—Give, Worship, Trust**

October 12—Give—Matthew 22:15-22

October 19—Worship—Exodus 32:1-14

November 2—Trust—Joshua 3:7-17

(Stewardship Sunday)

I give them to you now with the hope that you will read these passages on your own time and meditate and pray over them. I will not tell you what to pledge for 2015, but I will encourage you to arrive at a pledge that includes not just your money, but all of the gifts that you have to offer. I will encourage you to make a pledge that extends to all areas and aspects of your relationship with Christ. I will encourage you to make a pledge that springs from a renewed sense and understanding of what it means to find your life by means of losing it.

See you in Church,
Rev. J.D.
Mission Trip to Oklahoma

Several communities in Oklahoma were impacted by the spring 2013 storms. Many agencies are working together in a coordinated effort to help the communities recover and rebuild. Participants in this October 5-11 trip include: Pastor JD, Tom Schwartz, Brad Southwick, Michelle Kaitchuck, John Foster, Terri Truex, Mike Wendland (JD’s friend) and Billy Forsee (JD’s father-in-law).

Muncie Habitat for Humanity

Muncie Habitat for Humanity is making its second international trip to a Global Village location in South America October 4-13, 2014. Originally scheduled for Cochabamba, Bolivia, the location has been changed to Asuncion, Paraguay. Members of the team include Marty Kendrick and Carol Pyle from First Presbyterian Church. Their team mates from the Habitat community are Jena and Shannon Ashby, Del and Jayne Brinson, Eric and Lisa Horst, Stan Keil, and Al Smith. Please pray for these participants, for their hosts, and for the mission of eliminating substandard housing in our world.

Out of Africa; in Muncie!

On Sunday, October 12, Jason Shrock, brother of Joel Shrock, will share stories of his life as a missionary in South Africa. Jason and his wife, Karen, run a large missionary compound just north of Pretoria in South Africa. Jason and Karen are part of Teen Missions International, bringing large groups of US teenagers to South Africa, putting them through a Christian boot camp, and then taking them out to do ministry among the desperately poor of South Africa. He will describe what it is like to live and work in South Africa and will discuss the ongoing work they do to help alleviate the suffering of area poor through food ministry, handing out shoes, working with orphans, trying to get women out of prostitution, and spreading the word of Christ to everyone. In addition, Jason will highlight their ministry with Bible school, motorcycle Sunday school program, summer camp and new tabernacle building project.

Jason will share his stories in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 12, from 5:00 to 6:00. Please join us to hear his inspiring stories!

Kids Hope

Monday, September 22 begins our first week of mentoring at South View…our first week of our 8th year!

Our Kids Hope mentors and their students are…

Doug Bakken and Tristan  Lee Ann Brown and Adrianna  Lee Ann Brown and Adrianna  Barb Dennis and Lilliann  Muggs Gooden and Jordan  Sheila Lachat and Alfred  Carrie Jo Miller and Cheyenne  Richard Reedy and Darnzell

Joyce Carmichael and Cathy Alexander are awaiting the names of new students. (Cathy was sad to learn that her mentee from last year, Nicholas, transferred to another school.) Denise Reedy is hoping she will have the same student, Krystina, if transportation issues can be resolved.

Carrie Jo continues to lead this ministry. What a blessing for mentors, mentees, and the faculty/staff at Southview!
First Presbyterian Pre-Kindergarten still has openings for ages 2-5 years old! Please contact Tracy Clinger at 751-7960 or tracy@firstpresmuncie.org for more information.

Many of our preschoolers will be going to the pumpkin patch this month! Our 3 year olds will enjoy Whitetail Tree Farm and our 4 year olds will go to One Fun Farm. All the children will enjoy a hayride, pumpkin patch, feeding the animals and a corn maze!

There will be NO PRESCHOOL October 13-17, 2014 due to Fall Break.

WHO LIKES FROZEN YOGURT?

Gather your friends and family on October 9 and treat yourself to some delicious frozen yogurt at our local Berrywinkle located on Tillotson Ave from 12 pm – 10 pm. Mention First Presbyterian Preschool and the preschool will receive 20% of the proceeds to go towards the purchase of new equipment and scholarships! Enjoy some delicious yogurt and support the preschool!!

Please mark your calendar for October 26, 2014!

This will be a wonderful day at First Presbyterian Church as we host the Art Fair and Pre-K Open House! Preschool families are invited to join us for 11:00 am worship service and the Pre-K children will sing two songs. After worship, the congregation and Pre-K families are invited to admire the artwork presented in the sanctuary by young and old alike then gather for a meal together in Fellowship Hall followed by an Open House in the preschool hallway! Come see the children’s art work and our freshly painted classrooms! What a great day of outreach and support of our preschool program...see you in church on October 26!
Every Sunday at 9:45 am

- Age 4 - 3rd grade: Rm 103 (Mona Simmons)
- 4th - 6th grade: in Jr. High Room (Susan Clay)
- 7th - 12th grade: Rm 23 - on the stage (Aaron/Jacqueline Burton)

If you have any questions or if you would like to teach a Sunday School class please contact Tracy Clinger at tracy@firstpresmuncie.org or 751-7960.

“ADULT SUNDAY FORUMS”
9:45 - 10:30 am

September 14 - October 12

Jeff Clinger (Conference Room)
"John's Letters" ~ Discovering Genuine Christianity

Jennifer Williams (Associate Pastor’s office)
"The Traveler's Gift" ~ Discussing life principles exemplified by seven historical figures.

Coats against the Cold

WE NEED COATS!

...And Hats, Scarves, Mittens and Gloves

Bring those new and gently used winter coats—and scarves, hats, mittens, and gloves—to the church for the Coats against the Cold collection. We need children’s coats and adult women and men’s coats, especially washable ones and larger sizes—2XL and 3XL. Bins are in the North Lobby and upstairs hallway. Collection ends Oct. 12. Thanks for your help in keeping Delaware County children and adults warm this winter.

Adult Ministry Luncheon

Join us for lunch on Wednesday, October 15th, at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall.

If you’re an adult, male or female, young, old or in-between and can join us for lunch ($3.00 per person), please call the church office (289-4431) to make reservations by October 13th.
Sunday Liturgists

The pastor would like to involve more members of the congregation in our Sunday worship. If you are willing to serve as a Scripture reader for a Sunday service, please sign up on the poster behind the information desk.

Stewardship Sunday is November 2!

Stewardship Series
“First Things First”—Give, Worship, Trust
October 12—Give—Matthew 22:15-22
October 19—Worship—Exodus 32:1-14
November 2—Trust—Joshua 3:7-17
(Stewardship Sunday)

Salvation Army Food Pantry

Item for October:
Pasta and Sauces
Please place your donation(s) in the cart in Fellowship Hall.

Branches’ Upcoming Events

To glorify God, Branches’ activities provide education, fellowship, mission, stewardship, and worship experiences for all junior high and senior high students. All gatherings are from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the church unless otherwise noted and will usually include dinner. Always check your email for more details and last minute changes.

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”
John 15:5

Oct. 1 (Wed.) No KOINONIA
Oct. 5 Ropes Course - Burtons/Burkes
Oct. 8 (Wed.) No KOINONIA
Oct. 12 Jason Shrock - Life as a Missionary
Oct. 15 (Wed.) KOINONIA!
Oct. 19 Fall Break
Oct. 22 (Wed.) KOINONIA
Oct. 26 Pumpkin Carving
Oct. 29 (Wed.) KOINONIA

The Rev. J. D. Georlett, Senior Pastor/Head of Staff
revjd@firstpresmuncie.org

The Rev. Dr. Myungku Lee, Associate Pastor
ninebrights@hotmail.com

Cathy Alexander, Director of Mission & Small Group Activities
cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

Tracy Clinger, Director of Children’s Ministry
tracy@firstpresmuncie.org

Lisa Ulrich, Business Administrator
lisa@firstpresmuncie.org

Keena Troyer, Administrative Assistant
jsmith@firstpresmuncie.org

First Presbyterian Church
1400 W. Riverside Ave.
Muncie IN 47303
Phone: 765-289-4431
Fax: 765-289-4486
www.firstpresmuncie.org

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES:
8:30 a.m.—Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)
11:00 a.m.—International Service (Chapel)
11:00 a.m.—Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

The Rev. J. D. Georlett, Senior Pastor/Head of Staff
revjd@firstpresmuncie.org

The Rev. Dr. Myungku Lee, Associate Pastor
ninebrights@hotmail.com

Cathy Alexander, Director of Mission & Small Group Activities
cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

Tracy Clinger, Director of Children’s Ministry
tracy@firstpresmuncie.org

Lisa Ulrich, Business Administrator
lisa@firstpresmuncie.org

Keena Troyer, Administrative Assistant
jsmith@firstpresmuncie.org
Koinonia—A night of food, fellowship and learning for all ages at First Presbyterian
Koinonia (Koy-nuh-nee’-ah)—noun—Fellowship, Participation, Close Relationship [with God], Gift
Wednesdays beginning ..... ~ Dinner together at 6 pm; Bible Study & Children's Programming at 7:15 pm

**Bible Study Topics (for adults & teens)**

**Wednesdays**
- October 1st & 8th (OFF)
- October 15th-November 19th (6weeks)—Spiritual Gifts
- November 26th (OFF)
- December 3rd-December 17th (3 weeks)—Advent
- December 24th & 31st (OFF)

**Holy Moly**

**Koinonia for Kids!**

What will children, K-5th, do during Koinonia Bible study?
Holy Moly, we're glad you asked! Holy Moly is children's curriculum from Spark House, a division of Augsburg Press.

What happens during a Holy Moly lesson?
Each lesson has four components. During Discover, kids watch an animated Bible story video. In Relate, they talk about the story they just watched. Then, in Connect, kids engage with the story again in the NRSV Bible to understand the story. Finally, they complete the Create activity with their leaflets.

Sign up your kids today! Holy Moly, they won’t want to miss it!

For more information, check out [http://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/holymoly](http://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/holymoly)

(Childcare will be provided for children under age 5.)

---

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

The time is approaching to consider giving and helping our own children and youth here at FPC as they begin to collect for children in need. Last year, 77 shoeboxes for children in need were assembled by our children and youth and delivered to a local church for processing and shipment. A simple gift-filled shoebox can bring joy and love to a hurting child and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. The month of October is designated as our collection month. Items for boys and girls, ages 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14 are needed. Below you will find a sample of items to be collected but you may pick up a full list at the information desk or email Tracy Clinger at tracy@firstpresmuncie.org.

Shoeboxes, small cars, dolls, legos, balls, kazoos, harmonicas, slinky, yoyos, school supplies, small calculators with extra batteries, hygiene items, coloring books, writing tablets, hard candy, socks, t-shirts, hair clips, small books, etc. NO LIQUIDS (shampoo, glue, bubble bath, etc...), TOY WEAPONS, BREAKABLE ITEMS.

Please place your items in the appropriate tote in the North Lobby!
Roosevelt and Taft in a Time of Tumult

The gap between rich and poor has never been wider; small wars overseas threaten to grow wider; stalemate in Congress paralyzes the federal government; the influence of money in politics deepens; bombs explode in crowded streets; new inventions speed the pace of daily life. All this has a contemporary ring, but it is actually a brief description of the condition of the United States more than a century ago.

In her latest book, Doris Kearns Goodwin, the Pulitzer Prize winning historian, writes of the Progressive Era. In The Bully Pulpit (973.91 GOOD), she explores the presidencies of Theodore Roosevelt and his handpicked successor, William Howard Taft. In the beginning, the two were close friends and political associates. However, as the Taft administration veered away from Roosevelt’s progressive policies, Roosevelt became increasingly disenchanted with his old associate and eventually decided to run against him as a third-party candidate in 1912.

This book provides fascinating insights into a significant period of American history.

A Visit to Heaven

The amazing story of Colton Burpo, the little boy who claims to have visited heaven during a near-death experience, became a best-selling book. Colton’s story has been made into a movie. It can be found in the church library as Heaven is for Real (DVD 103).

War without End

Some 13 years have passed since an unprecedented terrorist assault on the United States destroyed the World Trade Center in New York City, did significant damage to the Pentagon and resulted in terrible loss of American lives. The attack marked the beginning of America’s war with al-Qaeda and its affiliates. It seems that no conclusion to this conflict is in sight.

Peter L. Bergen has written a comprehensive history of the first 10 years of the war. In The Longest War: The Enduring Conflict Between America and al-Qaeda (909.83 BERG), he records and analyzes the advances and setbacks of each side. He has interviewed members of al-Qaeda as well as American officials and military leaders who have shaped United States policy.

Those Closest to Jesus

The widely read writer of Christian fiction, Karen Kingsbury, has written a new book radically different from her novels. In The Family of Jesus (232.9 KING), she writes about the relatives of Jesus and others closely associated with him. Besides Mary and Joseph, the book includes stories of John the Baptist, Zechariah, Elizabeth, and James.

The book includes study guides and homework questions to facilitate small-group study.

Eternal Question

In his travels to three tragic scenes – a mass murder in the United States, a civil war in Europe, and a natural disaster in Japan – the author and journalist Philip Yancey confronted brutal realities that gave rise to the same questions: Where were You, God? Why did You let this happen? The title of his new book is The Question that Never Goes Away (248.8 YANC).

The author visited Newtown, Conn., where school children were slaughtered by a gunman; Japan where a giant tsunami killed some 19,000 people; and Sarajevo in the former Yugoslavia where 11,000 men, women, and children died as a result of the civil war.

He recounts his personal experiences as he traveled through these scenes of suffering. His stories will help readers respond to their own suffering in ways they never thought possible. In the midst of personal suffering that everyone experiences, it is possible to find hope and comfort.

Maxine and Chuck Leslie
Attention: All Artists & Crafters!

first presbyterian church
Art & Craft Fair
Sunday, October 26, 2014
sharing &
celebrating
God's creative
gifts

The Friday, October 17 entry deadline is coming up quickly, so don't delay! More information/entry forms are available at the information desk and from the FPC website home page.