As the election nears, and as we have listened to the debates and the commercials that have flooded the airwaves over these last many weeks and months, many still live with a sense of anxiety about the future. What will happen to our nation in the years ahead? What about our own individual lives: jobs, our freedoms? Will war come to an end for our nation?

At the end of the first World War, the poet William Butler Yeats wrote his poem entitled “The Second Coming”. Yeats voiced the essentially modern fear and anxiety that is often in the very air that we breathe:

*Things fall apart, the centre cannot hold;*
*The blood-dimmed tide is loose; and everywhere*
*The ceremony of innocence is drowned;*
*The best lack of all conviction, while the worst*
*Are full of passionate intensity.*

The fear that things are falling apart, that there is nothing left to hold us together is one many people have. Tragic acts of senseless violence loosed upon innocent people in the news leave us shaken. Looking around the world we see revolution in the Arab Spring, and we wonder what is the future for peace. We wonder where things are heading, and in our worst moments fear can take hold of our lives.

While the Bible reminds us that “perfect love casts out fear,” it has always seemed to me that the opposite is also true. Perfect fear has the power to control our lives and to blind us to the power of Love that watches over us by night and day, in all times and seasons. Perhaps this is why the Bible so often bids us “Be not afraid” and “Fear not!” I read once that these words appear 365 times in the Bible, which means that we have one such reminder for every day of the year.

In Paul’s letter to the Colossians, he offers a powerful word of hope that speaks to our fears and the anxiety that has gripped this age in which we live. The word that it proclaims is one that is about the sufficiency of the gospel, the adequacy of Jesus Christ to enable us to face whatever life presents. In the letter Paul writes of Jesus and says, “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in Him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through Him and for Him. He Himself is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

I try to remember these last words often – “In Him all things hold together”. In a world where we often are afraid that things are falling apart and we put more faith in candidates running for office than in our Lord Jesus Christ, we forget that there is a “centre” that holds all things together. All things hold together in Jesus Christ, who provides for us the coherence and meaning that we need for the living of our days.

When you fear that your life is falling apart, remember this good word from Paul: “He Himself is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” Over and against our anxiety that nothing can hold this fractured, broken world together, the gospel makes a different claim. There is a centre that holds, and that centre is Jesus Christ. Paul goes on to say, “For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.” Find your peace here, friends, in the One alone in whom “all things hold together”.

With much love as your pastor,

Ron Naylor
Dear Members and Friends,

Fall has always been my favorite time of year because of the changing colors, the vigorous breezes and the sense of excitement in the air as everything in nature changes. Since I’ve been in ministry, fall has also been one of my favorite times of year in the Church as well because the pace seems to quicken, more activities are going on and there’s a sense of excitement in the air as we prepare for holidays ahead. I have felt that same excitement here in my first fall with all of you.

It was such a joy for me to share with you in World Communion the first Sunday in October which we celebrated with different languages, music and communion breads to represent our brothers and sisters in Christ around the globe. I have loved the Taizé Services on Sunday nights in October and must give special thanks to Kirby Koriath and the choir for the extra time they’ve given to prepare and sing at those services. The music, the candlelight and the quiet time of prayer have been restorative to my soul and I hope the same has been true for all who have attended.

I am looking forward to a special service on November 4th for All Saints Sunday which I hope will be a beautiful time for all of us to remember our loved ones in the church and in our lives and to reflect on what it means to be a part of the communion of saints, as we profess in our Apostles’ Creed. I appreciate the help and support of Pastor Ron and the whole pastoral staff for the freedom to try some new elements in worship and to the Ministry Guild for their input and help with the changes in Communion for these two services. May our first fall together continue to be filled with the excitement of faith and the love of our fellowship in Christ.

Love and Peace,

Pastor Laura, *Interim Associate Pastor

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The Betty Hay International Mission Partnership Program

Betty Hay, longtime FPC member who died in the spring, was passionate about mission. She is dearly loved by the people around Xocenzich in the Mexican Yucatan area with whom we have been mission partners for over 20 years. She worked tirelessly for the building up of the church and medical clinic in the village which cared for people in the surrounding area. She also had a passion for Christian education. Both passions were brought together in the impact that mission trips had on young and old from First Pres as they worked beside and came to know and love God’s children living in another culture. Betty left a lasting legacy through her work and through a bequest she left to the church to promote both Christian education and international mission.

In her memory, First Pres is establishing the Betty Hay International Mission Partnership Program. The purpose of this program is two-fold: to encourage and empower our congregation to be active partners in the international mission work of FPC. First, we want all who feel called to go on an international mission trip to have the opportunity to do so. A call to serve should not be limited by an individual’s financial situation. Second, not everyone can make the actual trip, but all can support with prayers and dollars those who are called to do so. Contributions to the Betty Hay Fund from FPC members will help finance others’ travel expenses, supplies, food and medicines. It may also provide support for missionaries at our partnership location as well as scholarship funds for young people there.

Through this program our entire congregation will have opportunities to participate and support our international mission efforts. Together we can make a real difference in the lives of a community and by doing so make a difference in our lives and the life of our church. We urge you to be a part of our first trip to the Dominican Republic to establish a relationship with a community that we will serve for many years (see next page for more information). We will be working with Presbyterian missionaries living there serving sugar cane field workers and Haitian refugees. Your contributions and your prayers will make this possible. Thank you.

—Carrie Jo
Spring Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic

Who: A team of 25 missionaries from FPC

What: An international mission trip to the Dominican Republic

When: March 2 through March 9, 2013

Where: In the DR, The Presbyterian Church (USA) has a partner church, the Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana (IED). The General Secretary of the IED has suggested the congregation at Mella, in the southeast of the country, as FPC’s sister congregation since it is without a sister church and fairly close to where PCUSA missionaries, Mark Hare and Jenny Bent, live in Barahona. This is also in proximity to the clinic and batey where Jenny works.

Why: To establish a new, ongoing relationship between First Pres, Muncie, and a sister congregation/PCUSA mission partner in the DR.

To answer these questions:

- What can I learn about myself?
- How is my understanding of God growing?
- What is the impact of culture on faith/faith on culture?
- How does the PCUSA do mission?
- What am I learning about justice, poverty and suffering?
- How does that focus my understanding of discipleship?
- What might God be calling me to do as a result of this mission experience?

Cost: $500 per person; $250 for each additional family member

Deadlines: A copy of your passport and $100 due by November 26, 2012 to Thea (talk to Thea if you don’t have a current passport!). Full payment (or a payment plan) and passport name and date due by January 6, 2013, to Thea.

Want to learn more? Here is some information from our PCUSA contact in the Caribbean, Jo Ella Holman:

“In the DR, our partner church, the Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana is currently working to build houses for some of their pastors [in their denomination]. Right now, the church is paying a lot in rent for their pastoral families and it is taking too much of their budget to do so. The current work, which I would imagine will go thru next spring or summer involves three such houses for three different families in the eastern part of the island, in Higuey. There are also possibilities for VBS work and sports/games with children. The youth also are involved in music ministries, if you have any musicians in your group.”

“There are a couple of churches in Pennsylvania that have had a relationship with an IED congregation for about 27 years. One is New Wilmington Pres and the pastor is Rev. Ralph Hawkins.” [NOTE: Carrie Jo has spoken with Rev. Hawkins.]

For more information, check out the partnership blog from Rev. Hawkins’ church at http://sabanetadeyasica.blogspot.com and the following websites:

http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/global/dominican-republic/
http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/holman-jo-ella/
http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/hare-mark/

What we don’t know yet: specific details on our work projects or our living accommodations

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 Service (Sanctuary)
11:00 a.m.—International Service (Chapel)
11:00 a.m.—Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

The Rev. Dr. Ronald Naylor, Senior Pastor
ronpres@sbcglobal.net

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

The Rev. Laura Sherwood, Interim Associate Pastor
lsherwood@firstpresmuncie.org

Pastor Carrie Jo Miller, Commissioned Lay Pastor
carriejo1stpres@sbcglobal.net

Cathy Alexander, Youth Director
cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

Lisa Ulrich, Business Administrator
lisa@firstpresmuncie.org

Jane Smith, Administrative Assistant
jsmith@firstpresmuncie.org
**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. If I don’t have your email address, please send it to cathy@firstpresmuncie.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>I Am Second</td>
<td>We will view and discuss I Am Second videos. I Am Second is a movement meant to inspire people of all kinds to live for God and for others. The stories provide insight into dealing with typical struggles of everyday living.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>Pack-a-Sack!</td>
<td>We will assemble 100 sack lunches for Harvest Soup Kitchen.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 18</td>
<td>&quot;Meals on Wheels&quot;</td>
<td>We will not meet as a group, but this would be a great Sunday for your family to deliver Thanksgiving baskets assembled by the Mission Committee. Watch for details!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 25</td>
<td>Christmas is coming!</td>
<td>Hanging of the Green; Advent Workshop prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Advent Workshop</td>
<td>This year, the workshop will be on Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. We will provide an afternoon of games, crafts, singing and snacks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 9</td>
<td>YWCA Extreme Makeover</td>
<td>We are going to work to create a warm and welcoming space in an upstairs lounge. We will plan and shop for this project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 16</td>
<td>Mystery meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 23</td>
<td>&quot;Meals on Wheels&quot;</td>
<td>We will not meet as a group, but this would be a great Sunday for your family to deliver Christmas baskets assembled by the Mission Committee. Watch for details!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 28-30</td>
<td>YWCA Extreme Makeover</td>
<td>Now it is time to do the work! Over these three days, we will tear down wallpaper, paint walls and murals, clean carpet, and move in new furniture. We hope some former Branches members who are home for the holidays will join us! Watch for more details.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**“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

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**Branches: Mark your calendars now for...**

**2013 PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIAL**

*July 16-20 • Purdue University*

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**2013 TRIENNIAL theme “I AM” ...**

Triennium participants will explore, each day, one of the significant “I am” metaphors from the gospels. Jesus used the “I am” images to help the rookie disciples understand his purpose, depth of care, everlasting presence and wide redemptive love.

**Who can attend?**

High school age youth who attends a Cumberland Presbyterian church or a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Youth = entering high school freshmen through graduated seniors.

**For more information...**

Check out [http://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org) or talk to current Branches who attended Triennium in 2010: Jack Alexander, Megan Brown, Lucas Clay, Mackenzie Clinger. Registration will take place in January 2013!
Vinedressers' Thanks

Thank you for supporting this youth mission project over the last three summers. With matching gifts from our Mission Committee, this project has generated over $5,500 for the First Presbyterian Church account at Second Harvest Food Bank.

AP BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME IN NOVEMBER!
Watch your e-mails for more details!

Rehearsals for Pre-K & Elementary's short Christmas Program
"The Not So Silent Night"
Wednesdays in Nov. & Dec.
(except Nov. 21) • 5:30-6:30 pm
Program: Dec. 23 @ 10:00 am during the Advent Brunch

Advent Workshop

Who: Elementary and preschool children of First Pres
When: Sunday, December 2, 2012, 2:00 - 5:00 pm
Where: Fellowship Hall, Youth Hall, various classrooms
What: Crafts, stories, games, snacks, and short rehearsal for the Christmas program, "The Not So Silent Night"
Why: This is the youth group's present to the families in our congregation. Parents are welcome to stay, but the youth group will supervise the children so parents can spend the afternoon preparing for the season.

Please call the church office (289-4431) or email Thea (cathy@firstprespresbyterian.org) by November 28 to make a reservation.

We Welcome Children and Families on Sunday Mornings to First Presbyterian!

Infants through 3 year olds receive child care and Christian nurturing in Room 101 with Marie Burkey and her helper throughout Sunday morning from 8:15 am to noon.

During Worship Services: Children's Worship Center

Children 4 years old through 2nd grade join their parents in the sanctuary for the beginning of worship and are dismissed with a leader for Children's Worship Center, held in Youth Hall. Storytelling is used as a way for children to be in worship so God is experienced. Children in the 3rd grade and older remain in worship with their parents.

9:45-10:30 am Sunday School for Children and Youth:
• Room 104: 4-year-olds through 5th graders with Jeff & Tracy Clinger (combined class using "One Room Sunday School curriculum)
• Room 23 (on the stage): 6th-12th graders with Aaron & Jacqueline Burton
Our Mission Team is looking for 18 individuals/families who would like to spread holiday cheer at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**Holiday Food Baskets**

Food baskets will be assembled at the church, and volunteers are needed to deliver them as follows:

- **Thanksgiving Baskets**: November 18
- **Christmas Baskets**: December 23

A volunteer usually delivers both Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to the same family; however, if you are not available to deliver on both dates, you can sign up to deliver on one date and someone else will deliver the other date. Please call Janie Miller (289-3652) or email janiem13@att.net for more information, or to sign up for this wonderful holiday project—especially fun for a family or for 2 or 3 friends together.

**The Giving Tree**

The Giving Tree will be up in the Lounge hallway on Sunday, November 25, and you can help decorate it with ornaments which are displayed on the table beside the tree. Please select an ornament or several, remove the tag from the ornament and place the ornament on the tree. Then purchase the gift, wrap it, PUT YOUR TAG ON THE GIFT IDENTIFYING THE RECIPIENT, MAKING SURE THE FAMILY NUMBER IS ON IT. And put it under the tree.

Many ornaments represent a very special need of a family of children or of persons identified by the Salvation Army, A Better Way or the YWCA. Other ornaments represent gifts for agencies with whom we partner—some specific gifts and some monetary gifts.

It’s such a joy to buy for a child knowing how excited he or she will be. Each child will have two ornaments: one with toy or game suggestions and one with clothing suggestions and sizes. We ask that you choose only one of the suggestions per child because all the families have more than one child represented by ornaments. It wouldn’t be fair for one child in the family to receive 12 gifts while the others each receive two. If you want to buy many gifts, you could take ornaments for all the children in the family.

Agencies represented by some of the ornaments include Christian Ministries, Muncie Habitat for Humanity, Second Harvest Food Bank, Motivate Our Minds (MOMS), and Muncie Mission.

**Place your gift(s) under our Giving Tree by Friday, December 21, for delivery on the 23rd.**

**PANTRY ITEM FOR NOVEMBER:**

**CANNED VEGETABLES**

Please place your donation(s) in the cart in Fellowship Hall.

**Hanging of the Green**

Sunday, November 25th

4:00 pm

Please place your gift(s) under our Giving Tree by Friday, December 21, for delivery on the 23rd.

**Be a Bell Ringer for Salvation Army**

at the Muncie Mall (just inside the entrance by MCL Cafeteria).

First Pres members will be ringing the bells on December 3-7 and December 10-14 from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Choose a one-hour time slot and sign up later this month in the Lounge Hallway. This is a great holiday activity for the whole family!
Looking for God Outside Church
Barbara Brown Taylor has learned how to encounter God in unlikely places – while walking, at work, in meditation and elsewhere. In her book, An Altar in the World (283.092 TAYL), she provides concrete steps to guide readers in their search. She questions conventional distinctions between the sacred and the secular, finding paths to God in everyday activities.

Ms. Taylor is an Episcopal priest and is a professor of religion at Piedmont College.

Grieving
Grief afflicts everyone at some time. Some grieve well – most not so well. In Mourning and Dancing (155.9 MILL), Sally Downham Miller tells the story of a young widow and mother of two who grieved poorly but who eventually discovered some truths about healing and recovery.

The book is designed to help anyone who has suffered loss or who seeks to help someone else who is struggling with grief.

An Amish Memoir
At 2 a.m. one morning, a 17-year-old youth rose from his bed, packed his few belongings in a duffle bag, wrote a brief note, and walked out of his home and into a virtual new world. The young man was Ira Wagler. He was not just leaving home. He was leaving a way of life and entering a world more alien than he could have imagined.

Ira had decided to walk away from his family and the Old Order Amish settlement of Bloomfield, Iowa, where he had grown up. His book, Growing Up Amish (289.7 WAGL), is a memoir that describes his childhood, his quest to find his place in the world, and his ultimate decision to leave the Amish faith at age 26.

The author is now general manager of a supply and pole barn company in Pennsylvania.

Thank You...from Project Stepping Stone Board

The Board of Project Stepping Stone would like to thank all those who prayed, baked, and bid on Sunday, August 26th.

Lutheran Church of the Cross and its members provided a wonderful home for us to share our mission. Wilbur Puckett and his son Brad held a lively auction of wonderful desserts and community items. Desserts were made by members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church of the Cross, and First Presbyterian Church. $4,000 was raised at the auction with additional financial support being provided by The East Central Chapter of Thrivent Financial. This event is not just a fundraiser to the PSS Board, but an opportunity for fellowship and each year re-energizes us. Thank you.
All Saints’ Sunday
Sunday, November 4th

COMMUNION AND
CANDLE LIGHTING REMEMBRANCE
at 8:30am and 11:00am worship

A reflective service to honor those who have gone on to live in the fullness of Christ. We recognize how they and the entire community of believers are always gathered around the Lord’s Table in the timelessness of God.

This Communion of the Saints will incorporate some of the beautiful music from our October Taizé services and include a time for all to light an individual remembrance candle in honor of loved ones.

‘Short Series’ Sunday School presents
“Pakistan – A Culture in Transition”
Taught by: Asher John,
PhD candidate in Linguistics at BSU

Sundays in November
9:45am–10:45am in Fellowship Hall

Part of our year long focus: Disciples in Transition

This month’s class will be an introduction to the Pakistani culture and society, economics and politics. Each class presentation will be followed by a time for questions and discussion.

Presentations will include Historical Background with India, Daily Life Today, Christianity in Pakistan, Rise of Radicalism and Fundamentalism

The series will conclude with a brunch during class on November 25th featuring authentic Pakistani and Indian foods. All are invited to attend!