The great linguistic philosopher Hans Gadamer said famously that “Words create worlds.” I believe this with all my heart, and that is one of the most important reasons I love the Bible and am so convinced that we as a people need to hear Scripture speak more than we need to hear any other voice or word. As students in seminary preparing for the Presbyterian ministry, we were faced with what is still called the Bible Content exam. It was a multiple-choice test on the content of Scripture, and it was not a test you could fake your way through – not one that had to do with your opinions. You either knew the great arc of the Biblical story or you did not. When one of the professors was asked the best advice they had to offer on how to pass this exam, the professor smiled and said, “I suggest you begin by reading the Bible.” Now this is good advice for not simply students who need to pass a test but I believe it is indispensable advice for every Christian who wants to live a faithful, meaningful, hopeful life in this troubled world.

The Swiss theologian Karl Barth told his readers that they should have “absolute confidence in Holy Scriptures”. I’ve been challenged by Barth’s words to trust the Bible and to seek to preach it with confidence in its adequacy to meet what life demands. Moreover, I’m convinced that reading the Bible regularly and allowing it to make sense of one’s view of the world is one of the most crucial things needed to make sense of life. The Bible brims with hope on every page because it alone believes that God is the most important Reality and the Power that creates, redeems, and sustains the universe. I have found that the more I read the Bible, the more I’m shaped and the more I’m formed by that reading – and the more it becomes the interpretive principle by which I read the rest of the world.

Over the years, I’ve found that memorizing Scripture has been a real blessing in my life. Not only do I find it meaningful at weddings and funerals and in worship but it provides me the voice of God – a voice that is other than my own that speaks to me in a way that I can utterly trust. “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me...” These are words that literally have given me strength and courage. “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give unto you. Not as the world gives do I give unto you. Let not your hearts be troubled; neither let them be afraid...” Jesus’ words have granted me peace and continue to do so every day of my busy life.

As we come back to First Presbyterian Church for the fall season, I hope the Bible will speak to you in powerful ways – through worship, Bible study, and your own devotional life with Scripture. The Christian church is the community that expects to hear God speaking through the Scriptures. It is that community which has been formed and sustained by the God who addresses it through those events and words that are preserved in the Bible, and we encounter that Scripture in community here at First Presbyterian Church. For the Bible helps us to find help, hope, and humility, and through it God speaks to us the Word of Life. It is as vital to the life of faith as exercise is to the life of the body.

I look forward to seeing you this fall as Scripture comes alive for all of us here at First Presbyterian Church.

With great love as your pastor,
The reprieve of the long summer has ended and a time of new life and academics has arrived for many of you. With that in mind, I would like to share several life lessons and truths.

**FIRST:** Follow the right path, even if it is slow going.

Last Monday, I saw a slug crawling slowly along the hot sidewalk on which the sun was shining. He needed to be in the damp grass or he would die, but I took pity on him and taking a slender stick, I helped the slug to the grass. The slug was saved by one man’s grace.

On the other hand, even in the Bible some could not wait for their successes in life and, wanting to go faster, met death instead. King Saul saw the Philistine army and was terrified. He could not wait for Samuel to arrive and offered the burnt offering to God himself (1 Samuel 13). At the next battle at Gilgal, Saul met his end with his sons. Judas Iscariot could not wait for his teacher to become the king of the world that he had imagined and he betrayed Jesus. Afterwards his soul perished.

Sometimes we think that our lives are going too slowly and we want to move quickly. That can lead us only to our destruction. More important than how quickly our lives go is going on the right path, which is often the slower path.

**SECOND:** Stay at the right place.

Even if you wander off, come back to the right place. Last spring a fox was discovered sleeping in our church yard. When I heard about it, I hurried outside to see the fox. It was skinny and was sleeping curled up in a ball. I felt sympathetic toward the fox who seemed to feel he had found his place. I compared that to something my children had told me about some years ago – a fox they saw strung up on a tree in front of a house because he had wandered into the wrong place.

Some Biblical characters stayed at a place where they should not have stayed. Abraham’s nephew Lot took the easy way going to the place of glamour, pleasure and sin: Sodom and Gomorrah. There he lost everything he had worked for and even his wife (Genesis 19). Through his two daughters resulted two nations, Moab and Ammon, which were bitter enemies of Israel who tested God’s plans. If Lot had chosen a different path during his time of decision, his life would have been much different.

In Luke’s story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15), the young man did not stay with his father where he would have learned of his father’s love, life, and wisdom. He abandoned his father after receiving his inheritance and left for a place of sin. He lost everything and his fate was worse than that of the pigs. Fortunately, he returned to his father, was forgiven and led a new life. We must stay always by our Father’s side.

**THIRD:** Something very small can become very big.

We should take care of the little things, because they can become very large. A few years ago I noticed moss rose flowers at my neighbor’s house and admired them. He brought me a whole row of them. They did not do well and eventually disappeared. Several years passed. One summer day, I looked at the place where I had planted the flowers wondering if there was a possibility for any growth. Incredibly there were three moss rose sprouts. I replanted them into individual pots and now the moss roses began to grow and bloom beautifully. I realized small things can become big things. This is a truth of life.

Even Jesus said so himself. “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.” (Matthew 13:31) “Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you (Matthew 17:20).” In Genesis, Joseph started as a slave in Egypt but later became Pharaoh’s right hand man. At the sea of Galilee, the boy who gave five loaves of bread and two fish to Jesus fed five thousand men (Matthew 14). And so we must remember that small things can become big things. Especially if you are starting a new life, you should know that even if beginnings are small, you will fulfill bigger things later on.

We must not forget the truths that God has told us. Even if we are slow we must persevere and follow the right path. If we wander, we must return to where we should be. Even if things may be small, they can grow into big things later on. These lessons and truths will lead young people and all of us to a path of success.

—Pastor MyungKu Lee
Dear FPC Members and Friends,

I plan to have a regular section in Columns in the months ahead to let you know about what’s going on with various ministries and initiatives. But for this issue, I had to take the time to say, “Thank you.”

The last month has been full, with an expected move from Decatur to here and unexpected news of breast cancer (very early stage) with a first surgery in Cincinnati (I stayed at my Mom’s) and a second surgery (Aug. 17) here in Muncie (Mom is staying me).

For all the changes that have occurred, Ron, the entire staff and all of you have done everything you could to make it all easier on me. You have helped me with unpacking, done some (anonymous) gardening, taken care of my cats, sent me cards, kept me in prayer and asked me what I need. I just cannot express well enough how much your love, support and encouragement has meant to me, especially since I am still new here. Thank you also for your graciousness toward my mom, Susan, who’s been up here with me and will stay for the week or so of recovery I need after the second surgery.

To borrow from my favorite Apostle, Paul, “I thank God for each and every one of you” and I thank you for your prayers. I look forward to recovering my energy and strength in the weeks ahead, and working alongside all of you in ministry this year.

Peace and Love in Christ,
PL (Pastor Laura)
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.

Sept. 2  No meeting (Labor Day)
Sept. 9  College Care Packages-Part 1
        We will shop for college care packages for our FPC college students. Bring $$ for a fast food dinner.
Sept. 16  Gishler Golf Outing
        We won’t be golfing...we’ll be working! We will have lunch together at the church after the 11:00 service and then head to Delaware Country Club to help.
Sept. 23  College Care Packages-Part 2
        We will pack the college care packages for our FPC college students.
Sept. 30  CROP Walk
        The CROP Walk raises funds and awareness to combat hunger. The Walk starts at 2:00 pm! Wear comfortable walking shoes but leave your iPods at home (talk to your neighbor!) Please get at least one donation (any amount) from your own piggy bank or mom/dad/grandparent/etc. Make checks payable to CWS/CROP and bring them with you. Watch for more information about when/where we will meet.

2013 PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIALM
July 16 - 20  ● Purdue University

2013 TRIENNIAL theme “I AM” …
Trienium 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 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!

“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

Vinedressers Update
Watch for our tomatoes in the north lobby! The proceeds from our harvest will go to the First Presbyterian Church account at Second Harvest Food Bank. Thank you, in advance, for supporting this youth mission project.
Hola, Amigos! We welcome preschoolers and elementary students to Fiesta!

**Wednesdays, October 3, 10, 17, and 24**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 to 5:25</td>
<td>Chadder’s Desert Drive-In Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 to 6:00</td>
<td>Hot Bible Adventures</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 to 6:30</td>
<td>Maraca Munchies (Dinner!)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 to 6:45</td>
<td>Mystery!</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:45 to 7:00</td>
<td>Fiesta Finale</td>
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**Bible Points and Stories:**
- **Week 1:** Jesus is our friend. Men bring their friend to Jesus for healing (Luke 5:17-25).
- **Week 2:** Jesus is our life. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-44).
- **Week 3:** Jesus is our leader. Jesus chooses his first disciples (Matthew 4:18-22).
- **Week 4:** Jesus is our helper. Ananias helps Saul (Acts 9:1-19).

Call (289-4431) or email (cathy@firstpresmuncie.org) to register!!

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**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. Children’s Worship Center, held in Youth Hall, is a way to be in worship with young children. It uses storytelling as a primary means for encountering God, so God is experienced, not just learned about. Children in the 3rd grade and older remain in worship with their parents.

9:45-10:30 am Sunday School for Children and Youth (starting September 9):

- **Room 104:** 4-year-olds through 5th grade with Jeff & Tracy Clinger**
- **Room 23 (on the stage):** 6th-12th graders with Aaron & Jacqueline Burton

**We will combine our elementary classes into a single class taught by Jeff and Tracey Clinger in Room 104. We have purchased a new curriculum called The One Room Sunday School. It provides comprehensive Bible study, application of Bible lessons and a variety of age-appropriate activities.**

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**THANKS FOR SUPPORTING "TIM'S TROOPS"!**

Thanks to all who donated items or money (over $900 was given!) to support Lieutenant Tim Davis and 8 of his platoon soldiers. Packages were shipped in July and enough goodies were left over that we are planning to send more care packages. Special thanks to Janice Wagner and Chris Hostetler for packing and labeling all the packages (a time-consuming job!)
ANNUAL HABITAT BUILD DAY
Greater Muncie, Indiana
Habitat for Humanity
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
First Pres’ annual Habitat for Humanity Build Day is coming up on Friday, September 7th. Habitat will provide lunch and water. We still need 7-8 volunteers!

Please sign up on the sign-up sheet at the information desk (in the upstairs hallway at church) OR email Tony Yakos (tony_yakos@yahoo.com).

PROGRESSIVE COOKOUT
Saturday, September 29
@ 6:00 pm
We’ll gather in various members’ homes/on their decks for a cookout, then all come together at the church for dessert, fellowship, and a bonfire in the north woods.

HOST HOMES NEEDED: If you are willing to make your home available as a host for the cookout portion of the evening (for 8-10 adults), please contact Scott Shockley (289-7779 or sshockley@defur.com)

You are invited to...
“Just Dance”!
Zumba Party
Sunday, Sept. 9th
3:00 – 5:00 pm
@ FPC
$5.00 General Admission • BSU Students FREE!

Trunk ‘n’ Treat
Wednesday, October 31st
5-7pm
Plan now to join us for First Pres’ “Trunk ‘n’ Treat” on Wednesday, October 31st from 5-7 pm. This event is designed especially for kids through 5th grade, with church members hosting decorated car trunks full of treats for our trick-or-treaters! Kids, be sure to wear your costumes! In case of inclement weather, join us inside the church for treats! Trunk hosts, call 289-4431 or email cathy@firstpresmuncie.org to save your spot in the parking lot!

Art Exhibit
Sunday, October 21, 2012
sharing & celebrating God’s creative gifts
Entry forms are available at the information desk. Entry deadline: October 12.

Look for the new FPC website...coming soon!
(Same url address, new look!)
www.firstpresmuncie.org
Satisfy Your Craving

For some, food may be more than nourishment. It satisfies a deep-felt craving, and it leads to obesity and a myriad of health problems. If you, or someone you know, has trouble trying to satisfy an unhealthy craving for food, a new book by Lysa Terkeurst may be helpful.

In *Made to Crave* (248.8 TERK), she offers a path toward satisfying cravings with God—not food. It is not a diet plan or an instruction manual about cooking and eating. It is a companion book to any sensible eating approach. It is a guide for those who wish to make healthy lifestyle changes.

Mrs. Terkeurst has written 14 books and is president of Proverbs 31 Ministries.

A Dog’s Life

Rising from World War I orphan to Hollywood star and international icon in just a few years sounds like a superhuman achievement. No human ever achieved it. But a dog did.

On a battlefield in France, an American soldier found a newborn German shepherd in the ruins of a dog kennel. The soldier called the puppy Rin Tin Tin and brought him home to California where his athleticism and acting ability caught the attention of Warner Bros. During the next 10 years, Rin Tin Tin starred in 23 movies. His hit movies saved the studio from bankruptcy and made him Hollywood’s No. 1 box office attraction.

The story of this remarkable dog is told by Susan Orlean in *Rin Tin Tin* (636.737 ORLE).

The Amish

Many contemporary authors of Christian fiction have looked to the Amish people for inspiration. The difficulties of living in a close-knit religious community within a larger 21st century culture provide a wealth of story lines.

For the fans of Amish fiction (and others too) who wish to learn more about the plain people, historian Steven M. Nolt has written an authoritative guide. *A History of the Amish* (289.7 NOLT) surveys the 300-year story of the Amish from their beginnings in Europe through their settlement in North America, and their continuing struggle to maintain their beliefs and traditions in unfriendly settings.

Getting Rid of Pain

“Oh, my achin’ back,” is more than just an expression for many folks. And feeling a pain in the neck is not unknown either. Lisa Morrone, a physical therapist and author, has spent more than 20 years helping people overcome pain and escape from the treadmill of prescriptions and treatments.

In her book *Overcoming Back and Neck Pain* (617.5 MORR), she offers an approach to pain relief that emphasizes exercise, improved posture, and healthy movement patterns to ease the pain of compressed or degenerated discs.

IMPORTANT PARKING LOT INFO

DID YOU KNOW...that during the week, both sides of all outside lanes are designated parking areas only for BSU dorm and food service workers who pay for a Mon.-Fri. parking pass? The *middle 2 lanes in the north lot* and the *lane closest to the church in the west lot* are designated for church use Mon.-Fri.; please use these spaces when at the church during the week. See flyer on the information desk bulletin board for a map showing these areas. Also, please observe the handicapped and "no parking on circle" signs at all times. Thank you!
First Presbyterian Church 24th Annual Golf Outing
benefiting the Gishler College Scholarship Fund

Delaware Country Club
Sunday, September 16, 2012
2:00 PM Tee Time

Register your team today!

FOOD & PRIZES
• LUNCH PROVIDED
• CASH PRIZES FOR 1ST THREE TEAMS
• LONGEST DRIVE (MEN’S/WOMEN’S)
• PING IRONS FOR 1ST HOLE-IN-ONE ON #14
• CAR FOR 1ST HOLE-IN-ONE ON #16
• 50/50 DRAWING

WELCOME
• ALL-WOMEN TEAMS
• NON-FIRST PRES MEMBERS

REGISTRATION FORM
First Presbyterian Church 2012 Gishler Golf Outing
For more info: www.firstpresmuncie.org

Please detach and return with payment by September 9, 2012, to:
First Presbyterian Church
1400 W. Riverside Avenue
Muncie, IN 47303

☐ TEAM ENTRY - $300 (18 holes; cart; driving range; lunch)
Team Captain Name ___________________________
Team Member Name ___________________________
Team Member Name ___________________________
Team Member Name ___________________________
Contact Phone No. ____________________________

☐ INDIVIDUAL ENTRY - $75 (same as above)
Individual Name ___________________________________________
Contact Phone No. ____________________________

☐ MAJOR SPONSORSHIP - $500 (name on large sign)
No Team Included With $500 Sponsorship

☐ HOLE SPONSORSHIP - $100 (tee box sign w/ name)

☐ PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION - $_____________
Name _______________________________________

☐ PAYMENT ENCLOSED:  □ Cash  □ Check

Brochures/registration forms are also at the information desk or at www.firstpresmuncie.org - Gishler Golf Outing