



The Church Bell

*Volume 64, Number 8
February 21, 2012*

**First Presbyterian Church
200 Church Street, PO Box 100**

Neenah, Wisconsin

**Chartered in 1848
920-725-4391**

This Sunday, February 26, 2012

**First Sunday in Lent
SPY Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup
MacDowell Male Chorus (10:15 Service)**

**8:00 a.m. – Worship in the Chapel
9:00 a.m. – Christian Education
10:15 a.m. – Worship in the Nave**

Ash Wednesday

As the Lenten season begins, there will be a service of worship with communion in the Chapel on Ash Wednesday, February 22, at 7:00 p.m. The mood for Lent is penitential. The very name for Ash Wednesday comes from the practice of our ancestors in the faith who put on sackcloth and ashes for repentance. Childcare is available during the service. ■

Grilled Cheese Sandwiches and Tomato Soup

Sound great on these cold Wisconsin days? Well . . . the SPY (Senior Presbyterian Youth) group will be serving freshly made grilled cheese sandwiches following the 10:15 a.m. service this Sunday, February 26. You will have your choice of American Cheese, Colby Jack, Sharp Cheddar or Pepper Jack, along with steaming hot Tomato Soup, chips, pickles and milk!! The cost is \$4 per person, \$2 for children 4 and under. We hope you will join us for this new and unique fundraiser as we continue to prepare for this summer's mission trip to Winnipeg, Canada. ■



Upcoming Events

Blood Drive

The day is drawing near when 56 days have passed and blood donors are eligible to donate again. Mark your calendar to donate blood on Wednesday, March 21, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. New donors and walk-ins are always welcome. The process moves more quickly if you pre-register. Sign up on the registration form located on the information desk outside the Church Office or contact the Church Office (725-4391). ■

Christian Education

Adult Christian Education

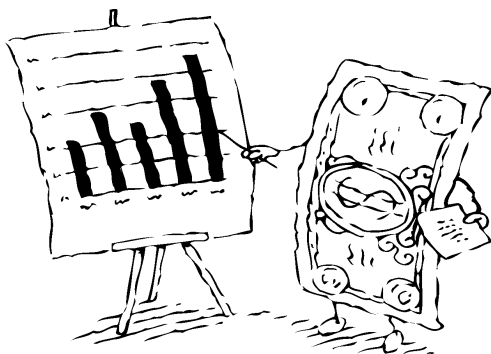
Please join us 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room:

February 26 Living the Questions (Session 2 of 7): Social Justice-Realizing God's Vision
Being a person of faith demands balancing spiritual pursuits with action. In a society which is often unjust, inequitable, and whose very structures are responsible for generations of untold suffering and poverty, we are compelled to pursue social justice as an expression of hope in realizing a better world.

March 4 Living the Questions (Session 3 of 7): Incarnation – Divinely Human
The meaning of the incarnation has been debated since the beginning of Christianity. Although often associate with Jesus alone, the notion of incarnation can be understood most fully when it also includes Jesus' followers, called, like Jesus, to enflesh the Spirit in divinely human ways. ■

Lenten Devotional

The Christian Education Committee would like to offer you a copy of a Lenten Devotional booklet, *The Sanctuary for Lent 2012*, by Robert V. Dodd. They are available on the Information Desk. Please feel free to take one for your family. A small number of large print copies of the devotional are also available.



The Five-Second Steward

TO GIVE: by *Mother Maria de Jesus Ortiz Balderas*

I can give.

I was born to give.

I realize it.

I have much to give from what is inside of me.

Read more of this poem at www.santajulia.org.

Overview of Projects Funded by the Birthday Offering

In 1922, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary (PCUS), it was decided that an offering should be made for a definite cause. That year, Hallie Paxson Winsborough, superintendent of women's work, visited Miss Dowd's School for Girls in Kochi, Japan. She challenged members of the Woman's Auxiliary to give one penny for each year of their lives (or a dollar if a woman preferred not to reveal her age) as a birthday gift to the school. The tradition continued when the Woman's Auxiliary became Women of the Church (UPCUSA) in 1948, and then Presbyterian Women (PC(USA)) in 1988. The offerings have enabled a long succession of new and often innovative mission projects throughout the world.

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee meets annually to review Birthday Offering proposals, selecting up to five projects. To be considered, projects must meet criteria established by the committee, including

- having a purpose that meets basic human needs, and is consistent with the mission concerns and policies of the PC(USA),
- providing a form of aid that relates directly to the people being served and
- being a project less than three years old or an existing project moving in a new direction.

In August 2011, the committee reviewed 32 proposals and selected three projects as recipients of the 2012 Birthday Offering. Thank Offering grants helped two of the parent organizations begin their ministries; now Birthday Offering grants can help the organizations move in new and vital directions. The grant amounts for the projects will depend on gifts contributed during 2012. **The goal for the 2012 Birthday Offering is \$900,000.**

2012 BIRTHDAY OFFERING GRANT RECIPIENTS

Circle of Friends: Celebrating Life, Inc.

Living Water for Girls

Peachtree City, Georgia

New Opportunities for Romanian

Orphaned Children (NOROC)

Gymnasium and Activity Center

Tulcea, Romania

Synod of the Sun

Solar Under the Sun (SUTS)

Irving, Texas

The 2012 Birthday Offering will be dedicated on Sunday, March 4. Donations can be mailed to the Church Office (please note "Birthday Offering" on the memo line) or paid online at www.firstpresneenah.org. Offering envelopes are also available in the pews on Sunday mornings.



The Back Page

A number of weeks ago, I was chatting with a fellow Rotarian at our Thursday noon lunch and we started talking about churches. He's new in the community and attends the Methodist Church next door. When I told him I am the pastor here, his eyes lit up and he said, "I'm a member of the **MacDowell Male Chorus** and we'd like to sing at your church." I told him that we've had the MacDowell Chorus a number of times in the past, and we would love to have them make a return visit.

So, it's all set for **this Sunday, February 26, at the 10:15 service.**

Some background information: Founded in 1934, the Appleton MacDowell Male Chorus took the name of noted American composer Edward MacDowell. Since that time, the Chorus has performed more than 500 times in more than 50 different cities in five of the continental states and in Canada. The Chorus has also performed several times on television and radio. Memorized music is a MacDowell Chorus tradition and the men have over 500 religious and patriotic numbers, show tunes, operatic and classical selections in their repertoire.

It will be a pleasure to welcome the MacDowell Male Chorus to sing at our church once again.

Grace and peace to you,



First Presbyterian Church

**200 Church Street
Neenah, WI 54956
(920) 725-4391**

firstpresneenah@firstpresneenah.org

Visit our website:
www.firstpresneenah.org

Sunday Worship:

**8:00 a.m. in the Chapel
10:15 a.m. in the Nave**

7:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Nursery Care Available

Thursday Worship:

**4:00 p.m. in the Chapel
First Thursday of Each Month**