

November
2009



Church Street News

Presque Isle Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Stewardship Campaign

It's November. You know what comes in the mail every November - an envelope with the church's return address and "the" letter. Perhaps you don't read "the" letter because you know what it wants, rather than what it might say. However you may view "the" letter, the bottom line is always the same - your generosity makes it possible to continue our church's ministries.



The November *Mission Moment* found on the United Church of Christ website is an excerpt from "For Such a Time as This: Stewardship in Tough Economic Times," a Bible Study for congregations by Rochelle Stackhouse.

"From Jesus' fullness we have received grace upon grace.' It is indeed true and very good news indeed; we have received from Jesus grace upon grace.

"But I've been thinking recently about other sorts of things people have been receiving over this past year: lay-off notices, letters from a bank foreclosing on a house, rejection letters from prospective employers, notices that retirement savings have lost value, news that a family member is being called to service in the military in Iraq or Afghanistan, a diagnosis that not only means physical and emotional but financial struggle.

"When things as unwelcome as this come along, indeed when the whole nation is struggling through economic downturn and two wars, sometimes it can be hard to hold on to the notion that our days are full of grace upon grace. . .

"None of us can fulfill God's call alone; not even Jesus did that. Whatever the problem or need, you can be sure there are others in your community, your denomination, your family also concerned and working on it. The gift of being in a church and attached to the wider denomination is that there is a space for sharing ideas, for sharing resources, for knowing that you are held in prayer and so strengthened by relationships.

"When times are hard, it is these relationships that will provide the resources to carry on, and perhaps the greatest task of individuals and churches is to nurture those relationships as much as we shepherd our church budgets, endowments or buildings."

While we need money to maintain our church building and support our programs and ministries, without your presence and participation, our *church* would no longer exist. We are the church.

Thanksgiving for GIFT



Last year we shared our Thanksgiving bounty with Grace Interfaith Food Table (GIFT), the food pantry supported by our church, Grant Memorial United Methodist Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, and St.

Mary's Catholic Church.

In an effort to make more food available for distribution for Thanksgiving dinner, we are asking you bring your donations to church on **Sunday morning, November 15.**

Canned vegetables including pumpkin, canned fruit, baking supplies (flour, sugar, pie crust mix, roll mix), stuffing mix, evaporated and condensed milk, and pudding and jello mixes. A basket will be available for monetary donations for GIFT.

Christmas Fair

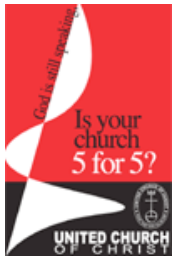


The annual Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, **December 12, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.**

Joe Zubrick will prepare brunch. More information about the menu will be included in the promotional material coming soon.

The following booths will have items for sale: **Twice-Nice Booth** (items which can be re-gifted); **Gently-read Books** (current books in good condition); **Christmas Crafts** (ornaments and decorations); **Food Sale** (desirable items include small main dishes, packaged for freezing; yeast breads; Christmas cookies; pies; stews and soups; etc.); **Christmas Greenery Arrangements** (appropriate for seasonal decorations). To volunteer, contact Ann Wight (769-6791) or Susie James (764-5332).

Five for Five



During the past several months, we have mentioned that our church is a Five for Five church. We pledge to the Basic Support of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and contribute to the four special mission offerings sponsored by the United Church of Christ - One Great Hour

of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Fund. The amounts pledged or donated for 2009 to date:

OCWM Pledge	\$7,250.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$734.42
Strengthen the Church	\$445.00
Neighbors in Need	\$518.00
Christmas Fund (December)	

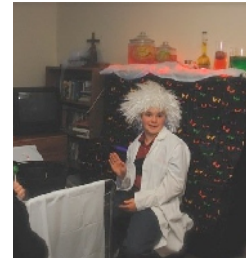
We also contributed \$787.00 to the Church World Service in May and June.

You will be hearing more about the Christmas Fund in the December newsletter.

To learn more about OCWM, click [here](#).

Halloween Party

The annual Church School Halloween Party was held on Sunday afternoon, October 25. From the smiles and shrieks, one would have to say that the party was a big success. The costumes were original, scary, cute, exquisite, and funny. The same adjectives could be used to describe the food, adding the word "delicious." There were a number of engaging activities. It is always amazing how our Fellowship Hall changes into such a great party room. We have lots of pictures to share with you. Links will be available soon. Thank you to all who made this day such a great day for the kids.



Harvest Supper

Once again, Jen and Eric Waddell have proven that our young church family members are not only good cooks, efficient planners and coordinators, but dedicated to the ministries of our church. Planning and carrying out a fund-raising project as big as a church supper with two settings of 80 diners each and 80 take out meals needs



many capable hands for a variety of tasks - ticket selling, set up and clean up, vegetable prep, turkey cooking, pie and roll baking, and serving. It goes without saying, that people who enjoy eating are essential to the project, and this supper is often a family affair. In the days leading up to the actual event, worries often pop up - Will we have enough food? Will we have too much food? Will the weather cooperate? Will the pies get here on time? Will the people actually come? It all seems to work out and the supper has become an annual success story as well as a great opportunity for camaraderie. The net profit from this year's Harvest Supper was \$2,465.00. Many, many thanks to all who helped.

Dates to Remember

Monday, November 9
 Wednesday, November 11
 Sunday, November 29

Church Council Meeting
 Veterans Day
 First Sunday in Advent
 Communion Service



November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:30 AM Choir 10 AM Worship 10 AM Church School		<i>Election Day</i>  Christmas Fair Group 6:30 PM	7:00 AM Men's Group 4:00 PM Writer's Group 6:00 PM Women's Group II	11:30 AM Women's Group		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:30 AM Choir 10 AM Worship 10 AM Church School 11:00 AM Bell & Jr Choirs	3:00 PM Girl Scouts 4:30 -6:45 PM TOPS Church Council 7:00 PM	Christmas Fair Group 6:30 PM	7:00 AM Men's Group 4:00 PM Writer's Group Veterans Day 	11:30 AM Women's Group Girl Scout Bronze Award Ceremony 6:00 - 7:00 PM		Piano Recital and Party 12:00 PM
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:30 AM Choir 10 AM Worship 10:00 AM Church School 11:00 AM Bell & Jr Choirs	3:00 PM Girl Scouts 4:30 -6:45 PM TOPS	Christmas Fair Group 6:30 PM	7:00 AM Men's Group 4:00 PM Writer's Group 6:00 PM Women's Group II	11:30 AM Women's Group		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:30 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship Bell Choir Sings 10:00 AM Church School	3:00 PM Girl Scouts 4:30 -6:45 PM TOPS		7:00 AM Men's Group 4:00 PM Writer's Group	<i>Thanksgiving</i> 		
29	30					
 8:30 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Church School	3:00 PM Girl Scouts 4:30 -6:45 PM TOPS					