

## Pastors' Ramblings

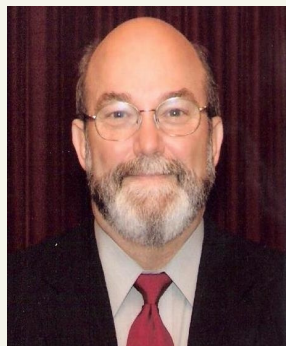
Welcome to the Year 2009!

So goes the year of 2008! It was a year of uncertainty and non amusing changes in the economics and stability of the world as we knew it. I do not know enough to advocate that it is comparable to any other generation; but this is for sure, it is for this pastor, a time unprecedented in possibilities for coming change. It is going to be imperative and noteworthy for us as evangelicals to reemphasize the words and truths of God's bible. It is my hope that each of us will have renew zeal for the Truth. And that we will reaffirm the basis of our faith and courage; that of Jesus Christ and Him pre-eminent in our lives! Oh, Pastor Bob, stop the gloom and doom!

Ok! I did not mean to only imply doom and gloom; but I did mean to suggest that we need the return or reaffirmation of biblical emphasis and priorities in our lives. This may not necessarily demand church attendance and faithfulness to the house of God; but for me, it does! I find the purpose and fulfillment of the church to be in the fellowship of believers. Paul points this out strongly in Hebrews 10:24-26. Our culture has eroded the ability to witness the strength of Christ's body. It reminds me of the time when a single statement of the courts in 1962-63, stating that prayer would not be allowed in public schools. This was allowed to become the national standard for a moral and politically correct culture. It was a decision of our Supreme Court that was totally unprecedented and changed the very face of this nation. It was a time in which we as Christians, allowed ourselves to be boiled slowly and certainly.

I hope that the year 2009 can mean for us, a time in which we return to the rightness of personal discipleship. That we as a church would rededicate our individual selves to the pursuit of personal faith, and not in a formula of religious faith expression. I hope for us a year in which revival happens and personal growth and dependence on Christ increases! If it is to be a year in which the circumstances of our nation force us back to a revival of perspective and purpose, let First Presbyterian Church be found leading. I know that this fellowship will follow the Holy Spirit, and that this will be a year of growth in discipleship, evangelism, and stewardship. I look forward to the role of leadership. The elders, trustees, deacons, and staff will be used of God mightily to equip, train, and send forth workers for God's harvest.

Benjamin Franklin once said, "There is nothing for certain but death and taxes". Well, Old Benny was right and also dead wrong. Sure enough death and taxes are inevitable, but the only thing certain in this world is God's ever constant care for His children. In II Chronicles 7:14 the Lord says, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." God tells us He will never forsake us and He will carry us to the end. The larger truth seems to strongly demand repentance and a turning back to God. Let the year of 2009 be a time for our country and our church to turn to an unprecedented faith in the providence and care of God. Amen and God bless your year in Him!



### Family News

Since last newsletter

#### Deaths

*DorisJean Johnson*  
11/21

*LeRoy Slorby 12/1*  
*Albert Busek 12/4*  
*Mayla Hicks 12/8*

#### Weddings

*Michael Officer and*  
*Renee Best 11/21*  
*Steven Tolton and*  
*Suzanne Burns 12/23*

#### Membership removed

#### Memorials Given in Memory of Undesignated

*Dorothy Monagin*  
*Myla Hicks*  
*Henry Auslander*  
*Mary Auslander*  
*Gladys Auslander Roe*  
*Perley Johnson*

#### Nifty by 50 Fund

*Roger Borkhuis*  
*Myla Hicks*

#### Deacon Fund

*Roger Borkhuis*  
*Albert Busek*  
*Samuel and Ida Broeckel*  
*Helen Mindt*

#### Music Fund

*Agnes Palmer*  
*Lauren Thomas*

### Special Points of Interest

- Youth Group
- Church Visitation
- Discipleship & Outreach
- Nifty by 50
- Calendar
- Birthdays & Anniversaries

## **News From Outreach and Fellowship**

### **“Just Walk Across The Room” All-Church Campaign**

*The new small group offering by author Bill Hybels is now beginning. This 4 week church campaign will help you learn how to stay attuned to, and cooperate with the Holy Spirit, as you develop friendships, discover stories, and discern appropriate follow-up as you reach out to share Christ with others. In the book of Philemon the Apostle Paul says, “I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.” So friends, in order to really grasp what we believers have in Christ we need to be about the business of sharing our faith experience with others. Jesus didn’t offer this as a suggestion – it is called the “Great Commission”. It is what all of us have been called to do and if we don’t, who will? My friends, there is no greater call to each one of us than to share the good news of Jesus Christ with everyone. This 4 week campaign will give you the confidence and motivation to do what you were already made by God to do – share His good news. If you haven’t signed up yet, make sure that you do so today. Questions – call Mark 833-6700.*

### **Parish Ministry Team**

*We have made great progress putting together a plan to offer training to everyone in the church that is interested in becoming a better caregiver. We are blessed to have Jessica Zolandek, a recent seminary graduate, offer to train all those interested in helping connect all of the members of our congregation together. She recently implemented a similar program into a hospital.*

*During our training time you will learn life skills such as becoming a better listener, walking alongside others through the grieving process, and learning to pray with others. This valuable training will be beneficial throughout all phases of your life. Jessica will be available for more information during our “Ministry Fair” Expo on Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.*

### **First Presbyterian Church “Ministry Fair”**

*How many times have you wondered where you could serve in the church and be most effective? Did you know that when you find your passion (an area that excites you from the inside) not only will you be very effective in that ministry, but you will also find more than enough energy to do all that God calls you to do? Well, in order to help you find areas where you can serve, we have decided to hold a church-wide ministry fair on Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from all of the various ministry opportunities throughout the church that are passionate about what they do will be available for your questions. Please make every effort to check this out for yourself.*

### **Financial Peace University**

*Did you know that there over 800 scriptures relating to money and finance in the Bible? Yet statistics tell us that 7 out of every 10 families living in America (including members of our congregation) are living paycheck to paycheck. What happened? Even though they want to give more to the church and other good causes, their present financial situation is preventing them from doing it. The reason they are in such a fix is that they have never really been taught how to properly manage the money they earn.*

*This spring we will be offering for the first time here at First Presbyterian Church, a 13 week course on personal money management called Financial Peace University. The founder and teacher is Dave Ramsey. Mr. Ramsey is a personal money management expert, an extremely popular national radio personality, and author of several New York Times best selling books on personal finance. Stay tuned for more information...*

## Vertical Student Ministries

I cannot believe it, another year has come and gone!!!! As you read this, it will already be 2009. As I sit and reflect on 2008, I can truly say, what a year it has been.

2008 started out a bit strange; in February we had a giant flood in the youth room. It dumped around 200 gallons of water. We are excited that the bathroom remodel will be underway, we can start to sheet rock, lay carpet, and get our room back together!!! Praise the Lord!

We also did VBS in Minot where we impacted over 100 kids! It has been awesome to see what God is doing with our VBS each year and we believe that this year we will see between 125 and 150 kids!!!

The Youth Group also did a week of VBS in Westhope. It was an awesome mission experience. We had about 40 kids attend, we are working out the details to head up north for another week of missions, this Summer.

Once again in 2008 we made a trip to Acquire the Fire and raised money to help stomp out world hunger through the 30 Hour Famine. We will be taking part in both these events again in 2009!



As we look forward to 2009 I am asking that everyone pray daily for our Youth and Leaders, as we embark on a whole New Year of doing whatever God has in store for us!!



Your opinion is requested from the Session.  
**Should we have communion on Christmas Eve or not?**  
Please give your input on a sign up sheet at the kiosk, or call the church office 852-0315.

### Nifty by 50 Committee

Bathrooms and Brides Room remodel will begin on January 5, 2009. The estimated time of construction is 6-8 weeks. During this time the restrooms down the hall by Sunday School room #10 will be usable.

Thanks for your endurance, while we are making improvements!





Web site  
[minotfpc.org](http://minotfpc.org)

MAKING LIFE WORK  
BECOMING THE CHURCH OF  
IRRESISTIBLE INFLUENCE

First Presbyterian Church  
1000 3rd Street N.E  
Minot, ND 58703

**Address Services Requested**

Phone: 701-852-0315  
Fax: 701-852-3645  
E-mail: [officemgr@minotfpc.org](mailto:officemgr@minotfpc.org)

Non-Profit Organization

US Postage Paid

Permit No. 257

Minot, ND 58703

## First Presbyterian Church Newsletter January and February 2009

Web site; [www.minotfpc.org](http://www.minotfpc.org)

(701) 852-0315 or 838-3722; Fax: (701) 852-3645

Rev. Dr. Bob Edwards, Pastor 833-8907

### Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, expect the first Sunday

9:30–9:50 a.m. Fellowship

9:45-10:50 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

*Full nursery provided at all services during Adult Worship!*

*Office Hours 8:00-4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8:00-3:00 p.m. Friday*

**NO 8:30 a.m. Contemporary service on January 4th & February 1st**  
**Joint Communion worship Sunday January 4th & February 1st @ 11a.m.**  
**Communion Wednesday January 7 & February 4th @ 6:30 p.m.**

### Mission Statement

"As Bible-based followers of Jesus Christ,  
we exist to love, glorify and praise God.  
Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we spread the  
Gospel of Jesus Christ, nurturing a  
Christian community that grows in God's love,  
cares for one another and  
responds to the needs of the world."