

(Jefferson, Madison)

that you will consider coming to worship and pray with us at Jefferson where you will be physically and spiritually fed.

Week of February 1

Madison

Elisa Owen

The Madison Presbyterian Church was organized in 1815 and is located in downtown Madison. We have 150 members with the majority of those members being 40 plus. We sponsor a preschool program at the church, serving children ages 3 and 4. Our church has a very active Deacon's program which has a food pantry that serves our community and also monetary support for those needing assistance with utilities, medicine, etc. We seek out the children in our neighborhood, transporting them to church in order that they may know the love of Jesus Christ.

Our pastor is expecting a baby at the end of January, their first, and we pray for good health for both mother and baby (and dad too!) as we receive this blessing. We pray for God's guidance for our Elders and Deacons as we discern how to best serve Jesus Christ and how to spread the Good News of the Gospel.

Week of February 8

Smyrna-Monroe, Madison Candice Klein

Smyrna-Monroe Presbyterian Church dates back to 1834. Located in Jefferson County, today it is a small church with faithful members and visitors, too. We will celebrate our 175th anniversary in 2009. We hope and pray that our church will continue its work and ministry well into the future. The church building experienced storm damage last September and we ask for prayers for God's guidance for repairs to the building, and for encouragement to the entire congregation.

Week of February 15

Commissioners to Presbytery Assembly

Please pray for the commissioners from each church as they vote on the amendments proposed at last year's General Assembly.

Week of February 22

First, Martinsville

Rev. Kimberly Olson

First Presbyterian Church in Martinsville continues to celebrate God's blessings in the midst of an ongoing time of transition. Our congregation of 100 members has been working to discern God's will for our future as we move through an extended interim period toward establishing a Pastor Nominating Committee and calling a new pastor. We worship in our historic sanctuary every Sunday morning, grateful for the proximity of the I.U. School of Music and its very positive impact on our music program. We are also grateful for the increased participation of children and youth in the life of our congregation and for the important role that our Good Shepherd Free Medical Clinic plays in the Martinsville community. The town was hit hard by the floods last summer and we continue to seek ways to be of service to those in need, whether through working with Habitat or other agencies addressing the issues of flood recovery.

Our congregation would appreciate prayers for guidance as we seek pastoral leadership (both during the interim period and long-term) and as we set budget priorities and long-range goals. At the same time, we seek prayers for God's presence as we wrestle with issues that have caused conflict in the past and as we try to strike a balance between maintaining our identity and traditions and becoming more open to new people and new ideas. We also need prayers for our education ministry (continued)

(First, Martinsville)

as we try to establish a more consistent Sunday School program for adults and as we focus on leadership development within the congregation.

Week of March 1

Mitchell

Rev. C. Allen Colwell

This past year has been good for the Mitchell church. We've celebrated our one-year anniversary of continuous, all ages Bible Study groups who meet before Sunday worship. We've also offered our services to the community by building a wheelchair ramp for one of our shut-ins, as well as providing a free pancake breakfast to the entire town!

Pray for us as we continue to seek those ways that God has gifted us to help meet the dire need of our community, in which there are many affected by economic uncertainty and job loss.

Week of March 8

New Covenant, Monroe City

Jan Utt, CLP

Please pray that we follow God's leading in all that we do. The Lord's Warehouse, which is located behind the church, serves many, many people in the southern Knox County area. Please pray that we meet not only the physical needs of our clients but also their spiritual needs as we visit with and counsel them.

Week of March 15

First, Montezuma

Rev. John Mattson

We have just finished celebrating the success of the second phase of Natural Church Development working on the characteristic of Inspiring Worship. Some of the things we have introduced include: using a liturgist from the congregation once a month, (previously had only when we had guest pastors or speakers), introducing new hymns using the Hymn of the Month, and adding silent time for prayer partners and for the church. We ask for your prayers, too, in these changing and difficult times. Pray for patience as we discern God's will for us and pray for the strength and courage to follow God's leading.

We do have one other great joy; the Deacons have changed the way we support the county food pantry. We use to collect on the first Sunday of the month and it wasn't working well. They have changed it to collect a category of foods and we receive food weekly and place it in a large box for all to see. The Deacons then deliver it to them during the last week. It works great.

Week of March 22

First, Mount Vernon

Rev. Monica Gould

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon is a small, family oriented church located near the center of the town of Mount Vernon in southwestern Indiana. We have approximately 60 members. Our sanctuary has been continuously used for ~170 years. We have a wonderful choir with a director who has served us for 39 years and an organist who has served us for 34 years. We have deeply committed members who communicate and care for one another outside of the usual church relationship. The Christian Education program does wonderful work to keep our small group of children engaged and included in the church. Our session is committed to service but also to being financially secure. They have a financial commitment to mission in such a way that 10% is given and that 1% is given to theological education. We are active in the local community with local mission projects including housing the Food Pantry; support of the Mt. Vernon Homeless Shelter; Habitat for Humanity; Jail Ministry, Almond Tree (a post prison program), and others. Our focus as a congregation (continued)

(First, Mount Vernon)

has been on developing relationships, loving the church, and having fun.

Our hope is to understand how we can reach out to others through ministry and witness and to grow our relationship with Christ and to (if God wills) grow our congregation. Please pray for our planning committee as we try to understand how to accomplish these goals.

The pastor continues to consider her call to this congregation a gift.

Week of March 29

Nabb

Mike Beaver, CLP

Nabb Presbyterian Church continues to be very active in mission work. "Senior's Day" is held on the first Wednesday of the month for senior growth in spirituality and community. In conjunction with fourteen area churches, Nabb contributes money, time and food to the community through the "Community Needs" organization. Programs for children include the Good News Club and tutoring for students after school. An outreach ministry for "shut-ins" called "Pie Day" is being maintained to provide visitation, Communion, and prayer. Our session is also re-organizing its ministries and committees for spiritual growth in the congregation and community.

Please pray for the health, growth, and spirituality of our congregation as we seek to be of service in the Body of Christ.