

PRESBYTERY PRAYER PARTNERS

April through June 2008

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley encourages all our congregations to pray for each other throughout the year. Over a two-year period, a week will be designated for each of our churches and other organizations. Each church is invited to tell us a little about itself and to share specific joys and concerns. Those listed below have been sent to us from the churches and organizations on our prayer list for the weeks shown. Sharing prayers with each other works!

Note: The person who prepares your worship bulletins and/or church newsletters may request this information in a Word document from bbsnyder@bestonline.net.

Week of April 6

POV Committees

Please pray for all of the ministers, elders, and others who volunteer their time and gifts to help keep our presbytery running smoothly by serving on these committees and boards:

Bills and Overtures	Permanent Judicial Commission
Board of Trustees	Personnel
Budget and Validation	Preparation for Ministry
Church Development & Redevelopment	Presbyterian Women
Commissioned Lay Pastor	Pyoca Conference and Retreat Center
Committee on Ministry	Representation
Council	Response Team
Mission and Social Justice	Stewardship
Nominating	Seeds and Trees (formerly Youth)

Week of April 13

Valley City, Central

Rev. Carol Humphrey

Valley City Presbyterian is a small church with a big community outreach. Everybody in the church knows everybody in the community and vice versa. Our fund raisers and special events are supported by both church and community members, and we have a long prayer list of people who want us to remember them every Sunday.

This year we will be celebrating our 150th anniversary. Preparations for this event have begun and in August we will invite everyone in the community and the presbytery to come help us give thanks for Valley City's long, faithful ministry.

Please keep us in your prayers. Since we are small, everyone works very hard to ensure that our church will survive and prosper. Pray that we continue to have the strength to meet the needs of our own faith community as well as the stamina to continue our outreach to people in and around Central, Indiana.

Week of April 20

Community, Charlestown

Rev. David Flucke

We started a leadership training program for those who want to undertake ministries different from those traditionally carried out by lay people. It includes 18 people from two churches. They are engaged in in-depth studies of the culture, of the Scriptures, of how people learn, how faith develops, how to discover needs within a congregation and then developing

ministries to meet those needs, etc. We are in the process of developing a website that will include streaming and pod casting the three weekly worship services and the classes offered by the church so people from any where can participate. We developed a plan and are working it to upgrade our media resources for worship. All of these are leading to the expansion in the number and kind of ministries to be carried out by Community Presbyterian. They provide new opportunities for service for lay people. All of these will enable us to reach more people with the good news of Jesus Christ. So, please ask God to continue guiding the development of the leadership training program, the website and its capabilities, and the media resources used in worship.

Week of April 27

Grace, Clarksville

Rev. Charlie Pye

Grace Church is growing - in faith and in numbers! Worshiping at the Clark County YMCA, the church has focused on growing in faith and learning more about trusting in God. As we grow spiritually, visitors are beginning to come and appreciate the community of faith they encounter and the sermons that speak to today's problems in today's language.

We're still very small and we don't know what will happen; but as our faith grows, we realize, more and more, that God's answer is always far greater than anything we could have imagined. Grace asks prayers for our continuing sense of God's blessing upon our small church; for God's continuing presence among us and for our continuing willingness to humbly follow as we hear God's call.

Week of May 4

United, Clinton

Rev. John Mattson

Our joys are having the Vermillion County Food Pantry that has been going for 17 years. Last year we served 3600 people. We receive assistance from other local churches both with food and money for food. The local schools, the Cub Scouts sponsored by the church and the Post Office have food drives which help a lot. Our Community Kitchen serves dinner to about 36 people a week and just celebrated its third anniversary.

We are active in Natural Church Development and working on our second quality characteristic, passionate spirituality. Our second survey was very encouraging in that we had no negative changes, while six went up. Our prayer is for total growth in the church, spirituality, growth in giving and in members.

Week of May 11

Fairlawn, Columbus

Rev. Steve Geckeler

Week of May 18

First, Columbus

Rev. Rob Craig

First Presbyterian Church of Columbus is very service-oriented, providing active volunteers to the local community. The church has been an incubator for many projects which later matured and moved out to stand on their own. These include Children, Inc. (Columbus' first day-care facility founded 36 years ago), Ecumenical Assembly/Love Chapel (an inter-denominational association of churches which includes a food pantry & other forms of direct assistance), Housing Partnerships (a Habitat-like agency that rehabs homes), Volunteers in Medicine (a free or very low-cost health clinic) and Su Casa Columbus (a Hispanic resource center). Empty Bowls started in our gym in 1999 to raise money for the Love Chapel food pantry

and it too has been taken over by the community. It is now held in a public space with over a dozen co-sponsors, including churches, social groups and schools.

FPC Preschool is highly regarded in the community and is attended by over 200 children from culturally and economically diverse families, including those of both members and non-members. This year 17 students attended on scholarships made possible by fund-raising projects and member contributions.

Our church has an outstanding music program led by a Ph.D. candidate vocal musician. We installed a Casavant Frères organ when we remodeled the sanctuary in 1995 and purchased a 51" Perzina studio piano this summer. Guest musicians & vocalists regularly participate in our worship services and *Music at FPC* brings nationally known musicians to the community every year.

FPC provides fellowship and educational opportunities for all ages. Our children/youth programs include music, Sunday school and outside activities open to members & their friends. Last summer's VBS had record attendance of 96 children; over half were non-members, including a few who did not speak English. Our adults are nurtured through their participation in Sunday school and the small groups which have begun to take root.

FPC empowers its leaders and its members to take roles of responsibility in the community. FPC's membership is quite homogenous but represents a wide range of opinions which challenge, but also strengthen, the congregation. Recent congregational surveys indicate that FPC members perceive our church's greatest strength is that it is a caring Christian community which is open, friendly and strives to meet members' needs.

Joys and concerns: A great joy for First Presbyterian Church of Columbus is a nearly completed staff transition. The Pastor, Rob Craig who began in October, is about to be joined by a new Associate Pastor. We ask for prayers for our staff and congregation during this exciting time.

There are two concerns for which we ask prayers. During our staff vacancy, our children, youth, their teachers and advisors have had a difficult time. The understaffing has taken a toll on energy and program. In addition, our Deacons have had big challenges in accomplishing their service. Several of them have had their own health challenges, and though the Deacons have labored mightily, they have taken on big challenges. Thank you for your prayers for our education and Deacon ministries.

Week of May 25

Camp Pyoca

Rich Swartwood, Director

Pyoca Camp, Conference & Retreat Center is just about to enter the wonderful summer season of Christian education, fun, crazy activity times as well as personal reflection. Please pray for the staff, volunteers and campers that their hearts and minds may be opened to hear God's call to them; that this summer be safe and life-changing as people come to this sacred space. We also ask for prayers for the capital campaign as we look to secure Pyoca's future in facility development which will allow for continued program development in year-round offerings.

Week of June 1

Graham, Commiskey

Rev. Michael Bean

Graham Presbyterian Church is a small country church located in southern Jennings County founded in 1817 by a small group of early settlers. A fresh wind of God has blown through our church and exciting things are happening...A number of new people have found their way to our church and have kept coming back, bringing our worship attendance to between 30 and 35 people. Meaningful worship, our love for God and one another, and a spirit of welcoming and hospitality are evident at Graham Church. The congregation is filled with joy and

is very thankful for the new spirit of hope that God has given us. Please pray for us to discern God's will as we serve God within our congregation and in our community -- perhaps for another 191 years!!

Week of June 8

General Assembly Staff

Week of June 15

Commissioners to General Assembly (San Jose June 21-28)

Rev. Scott Paul-Bonham, Elder Andy Traister, David Davenport

Week of June 22

Corydon

Rev. Scott Hill

Corydon Presbyterian Church was founded in 1819, when Corydon was state capital. The early governors attended what was known locally as "the church of the governor", which met in the state capitol building. We are the oldest religious organization in continual existence, but for the past twelve years have inhabited a building near the edge of our town of 2700 (celebrating a bicentennial this year).

In the Twenty-First Century, we are a church that makes a difference in our growing community. We actively support local mission and provide a lot of local leadership. We are also eager to have the community use our facilities. We have made trips to Guatemala and Ghana in recent years, and our senior highs take a mission trip every summer. We have also hosted a number of foreign visitors and we pursue interfaith relations with Muslims and Buddhists. Within the church, we have seen exciting results from Natural Church Development, focused in a three-month "Season of Passionate Spirituality." We ask your prayers for continued spiritual commitment and for effectively welcoming a large influx of new members.

Week of June 29

First, Cynthiana

Kevin Morris

Pray for continued encouragement for our very small congregation (15-20). The Lord has blessed us with small but timely victories; this has helped keep us encouraged. Also pray for the decisions our church must make in the coming months. Pray for our pastor who works nights and much overtime and with four children has a very full schedule. And pray that the Holy Spirit might open doors of opportunity and we would have the courage to step out in faith. We ask for prayer for those in our congregation who are battling long-term illnesses. We also pray and have a lot of compassion for our faithful sisters and brothers at Olivet. We also know that God will reward their faithful witness to His word.