

PRESBYTERY PRAYER PARTNERS

February 28 through June 2010

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 below. 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.

**Cluster Codes: NC = North Central, NW = North West, SC = South Central
SE = South East, SW = South West, WC = West Central**

Week of February 28

First, Brazil (NW)

Rev. Gary Scroggins

First Presbyterian Church of Brazil Indiana celebrated their 150th anniversary late last year and we are well on our way into the next 150 years! With approximately 300 members we continue to strive to be an active community of faith. As this is written in January 2010 we are already planning our Vacation Bible School for the summer and looking forward to something new in December 2010: an "all-church" Christmas Pageant. We are still discovering exactly what that will mean! We are also striving to develop further approaches to mission, within our community and beyond. Adult study is an area of emphasis and we are expanding our offerings in that area. We are exploring ways that new technology can equip us for communication and ministry.

We would solicit prayer that we can faithfully discern God's will for us. May we continue to be a warm, caring, Christian family – learning, finding deeper spiritual paths, and reaching into our world.

Week of March 7

Brownstown (NC)

Rev. Brad Napier

First United Presbyterian Church of Brownstown has had a good year. The church received new members in 2009, (two of which professed their faith and were baptized by immersion in Pyoca's Lake). One saint went to be with the Lord. We received a large bequest of over \$350,000 and set up an endowment for mission, leadership and capital projects. The faithfulness of Presbyterians is amazing! Praise God! In August, we celebrated the church's 170th anniversary and the Pastor's 10th anniversary in Brownstown. A vision task force was organized and we, along with several sister congregations in Brownstown, attended the Center for Congregations event in Columbus in October. Our mission support continues to bear fruit, with the largest gifts ever given for One Great Hour of Sharing and for the Peacemaking Offering. The church continues its strong support of Camp Pyoca, with a three year commitment to their Capital Campaign. We are grateful for our praise service and our traditional service, as well as the spiritual growth of our members. We sent a team to New Orleans for mission work in March and in November. We continue to be active in our community and in partnership with other congregations in Brownstown. We are proud to be part of the North Central Cluster of the Presbytery and ask the Presbytery to be in prayer for our witness, mission and ministry in Jackson County and beyond.

Week of March 14**Livonia, Campbellsburg (SC)****Rev. Donald Stokes**

The Livonia church is looking forward to the Lenten and Easter services. This year the community Easter sunrise service will be at our church, followed by our traditional Easter breakfast for the community as well as our regular Easter service. Please pray that these services will touch hearts and draw people closer to Christ.

We are researching the possibility of refurbishing the beautiful stained glass windows in the sanctuary. This project is quite expensive and special offerings and fund raisers will be necessary to complete the task. We are searching for grants and outside donations.

The church is also presently rethinking its education program. We struggle with attendance at all age levels. The educators are open and willing; the attendees fluctuate between consistent to sporadic to absentee.

We have just recently completed a "yard work" project. The large old trees that have been steady shade providers for many years are now old. The large limbs are breaking off and there is high risk of structural damage to the church (stained glass windows). Therefore, several of the "old friends" have been removed and are now providing warmth in fireplaces. The risk of the project was minimized by the professional manner in which the work was done.

We have completed and approved our budget for 2K10, installed the elected the elders and purged the rolls. We are now facing the New Year with Energy, Hope, Expectation, and Faith, believing that we continue to do the will of the Lord in our daily living and worship.

Week of March 21**Cayuga (NW)****Rev. Grover Williams**

Just west of Highway 63, nestled between the Vermillion and Wabash Rivers, the Cayuga Presbyterian Church is still alive and well.

Our membership remains steady, and although we are a mature church, we do have a few young members.

One may say we are a church family and full of love for one another. Any prayers on our behalf are certainly appreciated.

Week of March 28**POV Committees, Work Groups, and Teams**

Church Planting
 Church Transformation
 Coaching Team
 Council
 Disaster Response Team
 Education
 Lay Pastor
 Leadership Institute
 Ministry (COM)
 Mission Partnership

Nominating
 Permanent Judicial Commission
 Personnel
 Preparation for Ministry
 Representation
 Response
 Stewardship
 Trustees

Week of April 4**Your Own Congregation**

Week of April 11

Valley City, Central (SC)

Vacant Pulpit

Hello, fellow Presbyterian Christians. We are the Valley City, Indiana, Presbyterian Church. We are a very old church beginning service in 1857. We are very much active in doing God's work, and want to continue doing so. We are coming to you with this concern. Our minister of eight years, the Rev. Dr. Carol Humphrey, announced her retirement a couple of months ago. The time for her retirement has come and passed, all too quickly. Now we are without a regular minister. We do have appointed ministers, and they have filled our pulpit and fulfilled our needs. Time is running out though. We need to fill our pulpit with a permanent minister. We need your prayers in helping us secure a suitable long term replacement. We know the power of prayer to our Lord, by us and people like yourselves,

Week of April 18

Community, Charlestown (SE)

Rev. David Flucke

Community Presbyterian Church of Charlestown is a church in transition – working on redeveloping our older youth fellowship, starting a younger youth fellowship, reworking our two Sunday services, signing our contemporary service for the deaf, moving back into weekly church school, taking the development of our lay preachers to a whole new level, developing a youth brass band, expanding the ministry of our sign-language choir, looking at ourselves to see ways we can move beyond being friendly to embracing people, becoming more involved in our community while involving our youth and ourselves more deeply in missions. Our Leadership class is focused on developing a deeper understanding of worship. Our Elders are focused on developing plans for teaching the financial concepts of giving first fruits, tithes, and offerings throughout the year. Our website, www.placeofhealing.org, is up and running. We will spend the rest of this year adding to it things like our beliefs, pay pal, etc. Our pastor will work with both the Presbytery's Church Planting Work Group as well as in the development of the Southeast Cluster. Prayer continues to be the central task of our church. All things related to healing remains the primary call from God shaping every aspect of our church's life. God is moving us into growing, embracing, and involving people in His body, the Church. It's a time of transitioning from the plateau where we were experiencing a time of rest to once more climbing the mountain with Jesus.

Week of April 25

Grace, Clarksville (SC)

Rev. Charlie Pye

Please pray for Grace Church's new monthly celebration format and for our continuing ministry to our older members.

Week of May 2

United, Clinton (NW)

Vacant Pulpit

We are a small church of 56 active members plus a number of friends who support us. We celebrated our 175th anniversary with numerous activities during 2009.

Pray for us as we adjust to Rev. John Mattson's retirement from Clinton and Montezuma last June. Pray for us as we form a joint PNC with Montezuma and Rockville churches and break new ground to search for a pastoral team to serve all three churches. Pray for our worship committee as they search for temporary pulpit supply speakers to lead us in worship. We rejoice in the Community Kitchen's 5th anniversary of serving meals on Thursday evenings to those that need food or fellowship or both. We also rejoice in the generosity of the community that enables our Food Pantry to continue to provide food for those in need in Vermillion County.

Week of May 9

Fairlawn, Columbus (NC)

Rev. Larry Jackman

Fairlawn Church in Columbus is in transitions. Some of those are filled with positive possibilities. Others are filled with pain and sadness. All of which are in the loving hands of our Maker. Over the past 15 months the congregation has lost 15% of the membership to death. The rate of deaths has been stunning. The congregation also lost their pastor when Steve Geckeler retired.

Recently, members have begun to join. Two young families came into the membership. Baptisms have been recently celebrated, including an adult baptism. The church has a long history of a great ministry through preschool and support of local missions. The youth ministry is strong and filled with gifts. The congregation has finished a first round of "Unbinding the Gospel" and is almost finished with the second study. 70-plus members are involved in this Church wide thrust.

The PNC is working hard and needs your prayers. Larry Jackman has been serving as a temporary supply doing the worship and preaching duties. Rev. Ann Haw has assisted. A new employee, Corey Brasher, is doing children's and educational ministry. A study of a Marcus Borg work will begin in Lent.

In the midst of all that, some of the church members decided that the congregation needed celebration more than almost anything. An impromptu Committee on Fun was formed. Regular fun events are on our docket. Pray for us as we move, perhaps soon, toward a future which includes a new pastor.

Week of May 16

First, Columbus (NC)

**Rev. Rob Craig
Rev. Peggy Casteel**

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 & non-members. This year 17 students attended on scholarships made possible by fund-raising projects and member contributions.

The Session invites the presbytery to join them in celebrating these joys:

The large number of children and youth in our congregation

New youth mission endeavors

New members joining with us

Participation by members in a recent presbytery trip to Bethlehem

New energy emerging to further develop our web site

Good efforts by our Open and Affirming Committee, seeking inclusiveness

A new transportation ministry to get people to church

Congregational and presbytery responses to the Columbus United Way building fire and the earthquake in Haiti

A congregation that "steps up" when called upon

Also, please pray for these major concerns:

The plight in Haiti and among Columbus not-for-profits after the United Way fire
Our Director of Music Search Committee as we seek new music leadership.

Week of May 23

Pyoca Camp, Conference & Retreat Center

Rich Swartwood, Director

Please pray for the summer program, the summer staff, the campers, and their families as the campers experience a week of Christian Education and life changing experiences.

Please pray for our continued success with the capital campaign to provide upgraded facilities to the user groups and campers that attend Pyoca each year.

Please pray for the leadership of the Advisory Council and staff as we continue to work to hear God's call and how we can best serve the Presbytery of Ohio Valley and others in Indiana and beyond. Thanks so much!

Week of May 30

Corydon (SC)

Rev. Scott Hill

At Corydon Presbyterian, we give thanks for some powerful transformation in our midst, and some new directions beckoning. We are also grateful for the prayers of our sister churches - thanks!

For over a year, we have been building up to a six-week, all-church, small group study project. It uses the book "Unbinding Your Heart" by Martha Grace Reese, with daily prayer exercises. People have found new depth and meaning in prayer and in relationships. When you pray for us, we will be seeking to maintain the excitement and vision of that season. Please ask the Holy Spirit to sustain that powerful movement!

And yet, change can be hard. Please pray that we may have unity of purpose and healing in relationships as God guides us.

Week of June 6

First, Cynthiana (SW)

Kevin Morris

First Presbyterian of Cynthiana is a small but faithful congregation with a passion for sharing the gospel and serving God. We have a weekly "Saturday Night Lights" program to which all of the community's youth of school age are invited. Activities include games (pool, ping-pong, etc) and Bible study led by our pastor. Even though most of the participants do not attend our church, we know that we are planting seeds that will some day grow and mature in these young people's lives. Please pray that we may remain faithful to our mission of being Christ's people in and for our community.

Week of June 13

Dale (SW)

Rev. Martha FrizLanger

Dale Presbyterian Church is a small church with a huge mission! In 2009, "Community Table" and a program called "Let's Eat" began in our church. Presently, we feed an average of 45 people every week with over 70 volunteers from the community of North Spencer and send 25 bags of food home with children who might not have a source of food on the weekends. On Wednesday nights, our church is a noisy and active place as we host "Wonderful Wednesdays," a feeding, praising and teaching night for children and adults. As an ecumenical church, we helped raise over \$20,000 to build 2 wells in Niger. Our people serve on mission boards and teams with PDA, Habitat for Humanity, Crisis Connection, Spencer County Community Action, PYOCA, Spencer County Women's Counseling and Kid's First. Our focus scripture for this year

is Ephesians 3: 14-21. Our roots run wide and now we are focusing on our roots going deep. We are committed this year to prayer and Bible reading. Our congregation is reading through the entire scriptures chronologically, our pastor is preaching on whatever scripture falls for the Sunday according to this schedule and we have a blog where we discuss the scriptures daily (creatingword.blogspot.com). We are excited and grateful for all that God is doing in our midst. Please pray that we will ever be faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ and be more and more filled with the Holy Spirit.

Week of June 20

General Assembly Staff

Please pray for the General Assembly Staff as they prepare for the upcoming General Assembly.

Week of June 27

Commissioners to General Assembly

**Rev. Jack Cormack, Karen Hahn, Rev. Cheryl Thorne, Jean Beaver
and yet-to-be-elected Youth Advisory Delegate**

Please pray for these delegates from our presbytery, and for the other delegates, too, as they prepare for and then experience the grueling yet exhilarating opportunity of participating in PCUSA's General Assembly. Pray that they will be filled with wisdom, discernment, and endurance.