

PRESBYTERY PRAYER PARTNERS

September through December 2007

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.

Week of September 2

Spencer

Rev. Eric Erickson

At Spencer Presbyterian, we are a small but growing congregation: We have gone from around 90 members four years ago to a membership about to become 106! We are near the old downtown of Spencer, though many of our members live, not in Spencer proper, but in various places around Owen County. The congregation has a proud history of mission involvement which it maintains today through a very active food bank (which serves over 150 families a month), personal assistance to those in need, and healing care to those in sickness and grief. An active and appealing youth group and intergenerational Bible School minister to folks well beyond the bounds of the little congregation's membership. We currently are investigating creative variations to a congregation mission work trip (last year, we went to Kemmerer Village). A growing endowment program through the Presbyterian Foundation is making it possible for our church to consider expanding its mission and its members to continue their ministries beyond death.

At Spencer Presbyterian, we call ourselves an assisted living community, and so we are proud to be.

We appreciate your prayers and invite you to celebrate the Holy Spirit alive and well among us!

Week of September 9

First, Sullivan

Rev. Paul McGlasson

As First Presbyterian Church of Sullivan celebrates our 150 year anniversary, pray that our congregation will continue the legacy of faithful ministry which has so long and well been practiced here. Pray that the gospel will be spread through the witness of our congregation to those outside the walls of the church. Pray for the growth in discipleship of all ages in our church, including our children and youth. Pray for continued blessing for our Community Kitchen outreach, and for all of the events surrounding our Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Week of September 16

General Assembly Staff

Week of September 23

Central, Terre Haute

**Rev. Lant Davis
Alan Harder, CLP**

Central Presbyterian Church is located in downtown Terre Haute and adjacent to Indiana State University. We are currently surrounded by construction work as many building projects

are being done at both locations. We are encouraged by the revitalization of the city and look forward to our parking limitations being eased by the multi-modal transportation unit (parking garage) that is being built next to us. In 2008 we will begin renovations to our 140 year old church building to make more efficient and updated use of our available space. We ask for prayer that this will be done safely with the focus on our ministry and mission. Our Sunday School theme this year is "Following God's Guiding Light." We pray that the staff and members of Central will work together to follow God's guidance, and also spread God's light to our community and beyond. One way that we do this is with the Chironna Preschool that has been providing free early childhood education to low income children for 38 years.

Week of September 30

Unity, Terre Haute

Rev. Linda Peters

Unity Presbyterian Church, Terre Haute, would appreciate prayers for our new minimum factor with Natural Church Development: Need-Based Evangelism. This is our third year of having a Spiritual Campaign in the fall to encourage our holistic small groups and try to develop more. Please pray for a great harvest. Our food pantry needs more space and we are grateful for new members that have come through this ministry.

Week of October 7

Vernon

Candidate Sarah Cochran

Vernon Presbyterian Church is a small church in a small town. Both the church and the town are historical. The church was founded in 1825 and the sanctuary was built sometime in the 1830's. We are a church open to diversity, creative in worship, education, and mission. We are casual and we care for others and God's world. We would ask that you pray for us to become inspired to reach out to a wider community and invite to our worship and activities. We have a need to grow our membership, both in numbers and in strength to share God's word. We ask that you pray for us to continue to struggle to be true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you

Week of October 14

Caledonia, Vevay

**Elder Janet Massey
Elder Jim Wingate**

Caledonia Presbyterian Church is a small rural church located in Switzerland County near Vevay. It has had a congregation for approximately 175 years. There are about 20 members on the roll and the average attendance is 10. Many of the other members are old and some of them are shut-ins or away at school. Jim Bob Shaw (a recently deceased elder) best described our church as being "small but mighty". He was very correct, we are small but those that attend regularly are extremely faithful servants of Christ.

After years of neglect, our joy now is that we are repairing the exterior of the church. We have completed work on the gutters and the masonry work insuring the structural integrity of the building. Our next project is to get the windows caulked and the outside window trim painted. Once this exterior work is completed, we intend to begin working on the interior of our sanctuary and move our fellowship area upstairs this winter. Jim Wingate and Morgan Griffith are on the building committee and they are making great progress.

Another great joy for us is that Jim Wingate is going to begin a Bible study program for our congregation this fall. Our church has been pastored by students from the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and part time pastors until Jim and Janet were installed as lay pastors this April. (They are attending the CLP classes to become Commissioned Lay Pastors and expect to graduate May of 2008.) Our congregation has not had any type of

Sunday school or Bible study available for them for many years, so we are excited about this.

As you can see, we have a great deal to be thankful for. We also have a great deal of work ahead of us. With the grace of God and your prayers we will be very grateful if we can achieve our goals. Hopefully Jim and Janet will be able to co-pastor this small rural church for many years to come. We truly believe that with a stable long term co-pastorship at our church we can give greater service to our congregation and increase our membership by bringing more people into light of Christ.

Feel free to send us your prayer concerns and we will add them to our "Prayers of the People", in our Sunday worship service. We would also enjoy sharing your joys with our congregation.

Week of October 21

Bethany, Vincennes

Rev. John DeSanto

Dear Friends, how thankful we are for your concern and prayer support. It matters very much. I know many things come before you all, but as you can would you remember us in the following items of prayer.

We are a large building with a congregation of 20 people at most. We have a vital ministry to the community through inter-connectional adult and youth ministries. Our senior people matter very much. We do evangelism at home and abroad in the Great Name of Jesus Christ.

Please pray (1) That we may be true to God in Christ and properly reflect Him in our daily ministry to help others, and (2) That we might have a sense of the Presence of Christ with each us each moment of the day, for we find that with this Presence we are able to be true to God and the Word and live honorably before Him and others.

Having this kind of prayer support from others in Christ, we find that we are able to make proper decisions and be more aware of ways to help and meet needs. There are no materials things that we need. We need a daily renewal of soul, mind and body. Amen.

Week of October 28

First, Vincennes

Rev. Dr. George Ford

First Presbyterian was the 1st Protestant church in the territory. We are located in the heart of downtown Vincennes. We just last year celebrated our 200th anniversary jointly with Upper Indiana and Indiana churches. Our pastor is George Ford. We share him with Upper Indiana to the benefit of both congregations. Our special ministry is the Thursday Noon Bible Study & Lunch (no charge) which faithfully meets each week with the exception of Thanksgiving. Upper Indiana and First share the Lenten Bible Study, Maundy Thursday, Fall Bible Study and VBS. Upper Indiana is most generous in sharing their building in true Christian love and faith. We thank God for them.

First has recently "adopted" our very own missionary, a wonderful lady named Jackie Ramsey. She cares for and ministers to the gypsies, widows, orphans and mentally ill in Romania. She also ministers to each of us by the way she lives her faith and shares it with all God's children. We ask your prayers for Jackie and for God's direction in our ministry.

Week of November 4

Indiana, Vincennes

Rev. Cheryl Thorne

Indiana Presbyterian Church, in a rural setting near Vincennes, is celebrating 201 years of worshipping the Lord and working for Him. We are a fairly large church in our Presbytery, having an average of 127 people in services and 175 members, a wonderful percentage. We

are blessed with active participants of all ages and a variety of gifts. Please pray for our Sunday school. As many churches know, this is becoming a lost art. We are trying new styles and new ways to revitalize the education of our young people. However, our Vacation Bible School is always a tremendous success upon which we hope to build. This year we served over 70 children. We have fifteen dedicated choir members who help to make our worship time praise filled. We also have lots of other musical talent. Gemini Mission Camp at Camp PYOCA is a major focus of our time, treasures, and talents. Our 201st annual picnic is another highlight of the year, held this year on September 22. We are in our third year of Natural Church Development and are enjoying our small group ministries. In addition, please pray for our new mid-week Bible study starting this September; it is called "Grace: Being Loved, Loving God." Our Vision Statement is "growing in faith, growing in fellowship, and growing into the body of Christ." Please pray with us that our vision will bear fruit.

Week of November 11

Royal Oak, Vincennes

Jan Utt, CLP

Royal Oak is a small country church located on Highway 550 between Bruceville and Wheatland, about 9 miles from Vincennes. Average worship attendance is 12. We are involved in study and mission with others in our county. We volunteer at the Lord's Warehouse and are involved with the monthly Love Feast – a free noon meal provided at Monroe City. Both of these ministries are supported by many of the churches in the South Knox area. Also, together with Indiana Presbyterian, we host the annual Thanksgiving service for all the Presbyterian churches and the community. Please pray for our personal spiritual growth and also for our witness in the community where God has put us.

Week of November 18

Southside, Vincennes

Rev. Bob Tipton

South Side Presbyterian Church of Vincennes sits on the corner of 14th and Bayou. It began as the South Side Church in 1912. We are a small congregation with Robert Tipton as the pastor with an average attendance of 25 people a week. We have recently added a wheelchair ramp and lift chairs for the stairs to help our aging congregation members.

Our prayer request is for health of our members and their families and continued spiritual well-being.

Week of November 25

Upper Indiana, Vincennes

Rev. Dr. George Ford

Upper Indiana Presbyterian Church has grown slowly but steadily since Pastor George became our minister. Where we once were down to 15-24 attendees per week, we now average 50+. Praise God for the increase! We now have both an adult Sunday School Class as well as a Sunday School class for the children. We have special Lenten Bible Studies each year, Maundy Thursday supper/communion, a Fall Bible Study series, Vacation Bible School, support the Lord's Warehouse in service as well as donations (both cash and food) and other activities. The Session and Pastor are always open to hear other ways for the church to be doing the Lord's work. We also now have a monthly newsletter which one of the congregation puts together as well as a small (but growing) very vocal choir most Sundays! Praise God! We especially would request prayer for our minister and his wife as he has lost both of his in-laws and most recently his earthly father. They were very important people in his life and are greatly missed by all who knew them. His father's amens during Sunday services are now heard by God. The in-laws were faithful Free Methodists (very active until health robbed them of that opportunity).

Week of December 2

Commissioners to Presbytery Assembly

Week of December 9

Westminster, Washington

Rev. Andrew Holmes

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Washington asks for prayers as the Session discerns God's vision for our congregation in our community. Over the past two years the church leadership has led many endeavors towards a greater understanding of passionate spirituality in our congregational context. With these experiences as our foundation we are now forming a vision that will take Westminster through the end of this decade and into the next. We ask for your prayers that God will show direction during this time of discernment, meditation, and hope.

Week of December 16

Hanover College

Week of December 23

Peace on Earth

Week of December 30

International Center of Bethlehem

The POV is partnered with the work of the International Center of Bethlehem (ICB), our prayer partner for this week. The ICB is committed to education, health care, intercultural dialogue, working to build a civil society. The work began at Christmas Lutheran Church. Our partnership includes scholarship dollars for students, travel, providing digital hearing aids for the Audiology Clinic, pen pals, support for the Middle East Council of Churches.

What a joy to have the opportunity to join in prayer with Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, Director of the ICB, Niveen Sarras, pen pal coordinator in Bethlehem, the Bethlehem Travelers of the POV, POV congregations who send money, families who send money monthly, people who gather hearing aids, and the Middle East Council of Churches.

“We hear the Christmas angels, their great glad tidings tell.
Oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Immanuel.”