



*"We have this hope as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul" Hebrews 6:19*



## Walking the Dog

A seminary friend moved out to Indianapolis recently to start working at Second Presbyterian in the same program Anne is participating in. She liked our apartments so much that she moved into our building in an apartment just below us. Now the second week she was here Second Presbyterian had a staff retreat so she and Anne both left for two days and one night. I was asked by our friend if I would consider taking care of her dog while I was gone. Her dog's name is Penny and Penny is a Boston Terrier. She is a little dog but is an intense ball of energy. I, of course, trying to be a good neighbor and friend said "Of course, I can watch Penny." Honestly, I have never been much of a dog person though I have been warming up to dogs more and more as time goes on. I am still adjusting to dogs, I think. So the first day that I was supposed to walk her, we had a session meeting here at the church and driving home the exit from 40 to 465 was closed and so I drove up to 36 but I take the exit for 465 Southbound the exact opposite way I wanted to go. I made it home an hour and fifteen minutes later and ran up the stairs to let Penny out. You wouldn't think that such a small dog could pull you around like you were a ragdoll but somehow Penny managed. She was running around our apartment building like she had never seen it before, like it was a brand new creation waiting to be explored. She looked into basement windows, eyed other dogs, wanted to walk up to every porch we passed and never saw a blade of grass she didn't want to smell. The dog took me on an unexpected adventure at 9:30 in the evening. After our walk, we went back to the apartment and I sat with Penny for a few more minutes just so she didn't feel abandoned. After all this, I was exhausted and ready for bed. This caring-for-a-dog thing was a little more than I expected. But the next morning I got up early and Penny was ready for her morning walk. I was limited on time so I tried to keep us in our neighborhood despite Penny's best efforts to explore. By that evening I was looking forward to walking Penny again. It was crazy how quickly I had grown attached to this little bugged-eyed Boston Terrier. I realized that over the course of these two days I had formed a bond, a relationship with this dog who had interrupted my normal day-to-day activities.

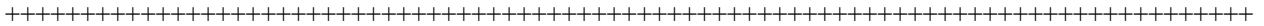
In life, it is easy to become stuck in our ways, to be in a holding pattern for years and years. Our routines start to define who we are and become the gospel we live by. But Jesus pushes us to look beyond our normal routines and daily prejudices. He wants us to explore even when we are too tired or unsure of ourselves. And sometimes like Penny, God will pull you a bit, lead you somewhere you might not expect. Grace and mercy light the path that God leads you down. It is hard to continue down these unexpected detours, these new journeys and highways when they force us to break our routines. If you follow where God is leading you, you may find the new experiences, while scary at first, rewarding a life-affirming. You may see places and people you never thought you would see. You may form relationships that will last you a lifetime and will change how you see the world.

Pastor Gray

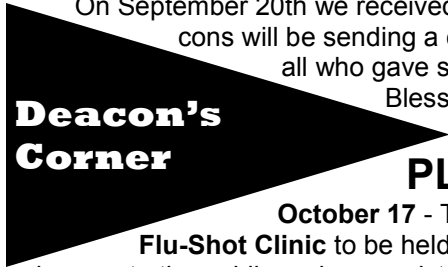
**We hold up in prayer:**

**Bob & Phyllis McGinnis, Homebound**  
**Lucile Moore, Homebound**  
**Frances Prince, Homebound**

**Servicemen and women fighting for our freedom**



On September 20th we received \$288.00 from the congregation for Habitat for Humanity. The Deacons will be sending a check to Habitat for Humanity in the amount of \$300.00. Thank you to all who gave so generously to help a family in need to have a nice place to live. God Bless all of you!



**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**October 17** - The Deacon's will be hosting the Visiting Nurses Service again for a **Flu-Shot Clinic** to be held at Hope Church. The Clinic will be held from 11am till 2pm. The Clinic is open to the public and pre-registration is Any questions, please contact Ken Thompson 839-1654

On **November 22nd** we will have the "HANGING OF THE GREENS' to decorate the church for Christmas. THIS IS AN ALL CHURCH PROJECT! You are asked to come to church in your old clothes and bring a "sack" lunch for you and your family. The Deacons will furnish dessert, coffee, lemonade and iced tea. After lunch we will decorate the church and when that is all done we will go into the Sanctuary and sing a few Christmas carols. WE HOPE ALL THE CHURCH FAMILY WILL COME TO MAKE THIS A VERY FESTIVE OCCASION!!

The Deacons will be remembering four families at Thanksgiving with a gift card from one of the local stores.

Two weeks before Thanksgiving the Deacons will put up the "GIVING TREE" once again with the names of three families to be remembered at Christmas. Tags will be put on the tree with the names, what gifts they would like and sizes of clothes for the congregation to purchase for these families. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU PUT THE TAG SECURELY ON THE GIFT AFTER YOU HAVE WRAPPED IT.

**Treats for Tots Food Drive**

"Trick or treat" is a phrase often heard in October because of Halloween, which is why the Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition chose to call their October food drive **Treats for Tots**. The goal of the food drive is to stock local food pantries with products that will improve the nutrition of infants and young children. Baby formula is especially needed. Any brand of formula is OK, because federal guidelines regulate the ingredients and quality of all baby formulas. Other "kid friendly" items are also needed, such as baby food, fruit juice, macaroni and cheese, and similar items. The food drive will take place the last two weeks of October, so watch for the box that will be placed in the narthex. Let's fill it with "treats" that will help to improve the health and well being of infants and children in our county.

# Hope United Presbyterian Church News for October, 2009

Hope Church will begin its "Count Your Blessings" stewardship campaign. Each week starting on **October 11<sup>th</sup>** we will have a speaker recount how they feel that they have been blessed by God in their lives. These short messages will remind us all of how God shed his blessings on each of us and how we can return those blessings to God. Our speakers will be Chuck Maxwell, Felipe Martinez (Associate EP of our Presbytery), Shirley Jones, Linda Martin and Jill Baker. After each speaker, we will as individuals be able to reflect on a blessing that we have received from God. Take some time this month to think about how God is blessing you and how you can give back to God.

**Pastor Gray will be out of the office from October 15<sup>th</sup> to Monday October 19<sup>th</sup>.** He will be traveling to Denver Colorado to attend the wedding of two good friends. There will be a guest speaker on Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>. Gray will be reachable by his cell phone during this time in case there are any emergencies.

## October Sermon Focuses and Scriptures to read in preparation

### **October 4th** - Communion Sunday

Genesis 2:18-24

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

Mark 10:2-16

Sermon Focus: Dealing with marriage and divorce from the context of our new lives in Christ.

### **October 11th**

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

Sermon Focus: Committing our lives to Jesus means turning away from the possession attachments that haunt us. Transformation of lives in Christ is shown through giving freely of our talents and possessions to help the broken and the needy of this world. In all this, we must continually ask for mercy and grace from God to free us from the bonds of materialism.

### **October 18th**

Isaiah 53:4-12

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

Sermon Focus: What does it take for us to truly be leaders in the Kingdom of Heaven? How do we model the servant's life that Christ offered to us through his own sacrifice of love for us? We must struggle with what it means to live this life of faith, in this struggle we must sacrifice things (putting away our egos, other loves, material attachments). How can we live as servants to each other?

### **October 25th** - Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

Sermon Focus: In silencing the voice of needy and oppressed, we try to shut out that which scares us, that which makes us uncomfortable. Jesus is giving voice to the long silenced and he is saying in a voice that we can't ignore or remain apathetic about.

## Let's have a weiner roast!

The young adults are invited to The Thompson's house on **October 11 @ 5:00 p.m.** to hang out around the fire, enjoy good food and fellowship.

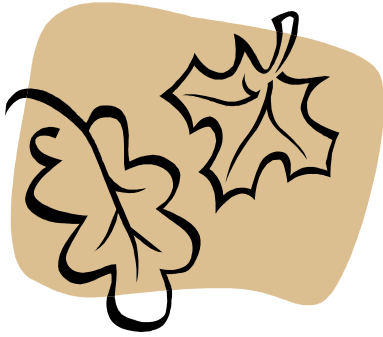
Address: 8093 Redbud Ct. Plainfield  
Need directions? Call Corey, 410-6420



## October

- 4 Janet Frank
- 13 Shirley Jones
- 21 Janie Schafhauser
- 29 Jean Jensen
- 31 Jo Wier





# PW News

We have said goodbye to Summer and hello to Fall! At this time of year our church activities pick up. The Presbyterian Women of Hope are once again planning for the annual

**Harvest Dinner** to be held **Saturday, November 14th**

**from 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** This is an ALL CHURCH event. Proceeds are used to benefit the entire church.

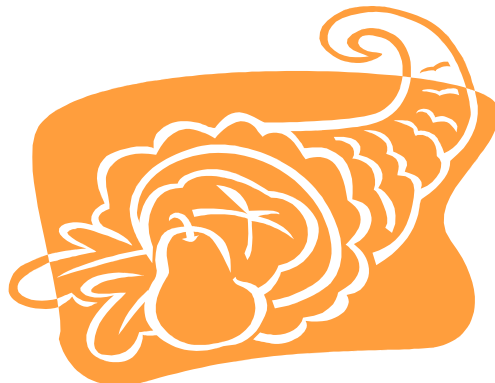
Everyone has always pitched in to help provide the numerous dishes needed to supplement the food prepared in our church kitchen. Ex: Food donations, such as vegetable dishes ( a 9X13 pan or enough to feed 20 people ). You can also help with other tasks such as:

- selling tickets
- setting up tables and chairs
- helping in the kitchen
- serving dinner
- clearing tables
- clean up afterwards

Help will be needed throughout the day!

We will be looking for all to get involved. Even if you are unable to do any of the above, we hope you will come and bring your family and friends for dinner. It is always delicious and a good time to fellowship together .

Look for the sign up poster in the Narthex along with ticket prices and advance ticket sales.



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Website: [hopepresplainfield.org](http://hopepresplainfield.org)  
Pastor: Gray Marshall



*Anxiety in the heart of a man weighs  
it down. But, a good word makes it  
glad.*

*Proverbs 12:25*

NRSV

