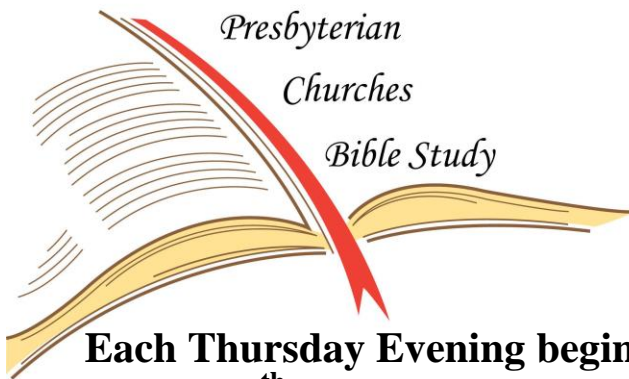


October, 2014



**Each Thursday Evening beginning
October 9th through November 20th
Bible Study at Various Carroll
County Presbyterian Churches
at 7:00 PM**



**October 29
Oasis Fun Night
Hayride hosted by
Cutler Presbyterian
Church**



Looking Back so we can Move Forward

On Sunday, September 21st the congregation gathered in fellowship hall to enjoy a carry in meal and take a look back at our past under the guidance of Rev. Stan Kessler, retired pastor from Kendallville, Indiana.

Congregation members placed their name written on a sticky note on the part of the time-line with the pastor's name in whose time of ministry they joined the congregation. It was observed with sadness that many of the saints of the church who could have remembered the earlier years of the church's ministry are no longer with us.

If you were unable to attend, please write your name on a sticky note (found on the table by the church office in fellowship hall) and place it in its place on the time-line. You are welcome to place additional sticky notes in appropriate places that mark significant events for you or your family (such as the year your children were baptized, or the year you were married in the church, or the year of the funeral of a loved one).

It is the hope of the Session that this time-line will help you recollect important events in the life of this congregation and encourage conversation about the past.

You are also encouraged to pick up a "Reflections on the Past" sheet from the table in the fellowship area near the Sanctuary, fill it out, and either put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office so the Session can benefit from your input.

It was noticed during the discussion that most of the pastors serving the Flora congregation stayed anywhere from three to twelve years, and that Rev. Compton's term of service was the ; \longest at twenty-five years. Also there seemed to be a pattern of alternating extroverted and introverted pastors that showed a tendency to react to the style of the former pastor by seeking someone with a totally different style. This emphasizes the need to do the work of investigating our ministry setting and how it has changed over the years so the congregation may seek a pastor who arrives with the skills and experience necessary to minister in the Flora of today, as well as looking at personal qualities like personality, personal integrity, and theological orientation.

Much discussion occurred about the events that happened in the life of the congregation during each pastor that people could remember. Highlights of this discussion were the beginning of the thrift shop (under Rev. Ramsay) and the Oasis program (under Chuck Compton).

We talked about these questions that Rev. Kessler had for us: What is a faithful member of the church? What am I really here for? How have you been transformed by membership in this church? In what way is God pushing us -- where is our inspiration, where does the Spirit bubble and blow today? Where is God lighting the fire under you?

These are some of the responses:

- * Christ is at the foundation of what we want to do, and we do it for Christ.
- * Oasis continues to reach out to the community in bigger and deeper ways.
- * God is challenging us to find an inspirational leader.
- * Society is not encouraging people to be faithful members of churches, so we need to find other ways to make disciples.
- * We need to be challenged and pushed to be more faithful.

The consensus reached was that we need to search for a pastor who can help us bridge the church culture and the secular culture, someone who can deal with the polarity between "doing church" and reaching out to the unchurched persons in our community of any age.

Blessings to you as we walk together in the in-between time . . .

Pastor Mary Ann Banning

Choir Practice 9:30; Worship 10:15; Sunday School as announced

Flora Presbyterian Church

October, 2014

Birthday Nursery Scripture Readers Ushers

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 PM Oasis	2 Pastor Mary Ann at Boundaries & Ethics Training at Geneva Center	3	4
5 Barbara Wilkinson Kris McGill Joe Moss Marty & Julie Catron	6 7:00 PM Caregiver's Support Group	7 Pastor Mary Ann Study Leave /Vacation thru Oct. 20	8 Ann Brown Craig McGill 6:00 PM Oasis	9 Ava McGill 7:00 PM Carroll County Presbyterian Churches Bible Study at Deer Creek 7:00 PM Lafayette Gr Banquet Gathering	10	11
12 Barbara Wilkinson Barbara Wilkinson Kevin Clark Joe & Tammy Moss Mark Good, Gst Spkr	13 Jane Kearns	14	15 6:00 PM Oasis	16 7:00 PM Carroll County Presbyterian Churches Bible Study at Rockfield Lafayette Gr Banquet Women's Weekend thru 19 th (Pastor Mary Ann attending)	17	18
19 Barbara Wilkinson Laurie Brower Dale Snipes Bob & Ann Brown David Smook, Gst Spkr	20	21 7:00 PM Mary-Martha Circle, Sally Schmidt, hostess	22 Fall break – NO Oasis	23 Mitchell Catron Barb Mayfield 7:00 PM Carroll County Presbyterian Churches Bible Study at Cutler	24	25
26 Barbara Wilkinson Angie Austin Jay McMillin Susan & Maggie Scholl	27	28 7:00 PM Logansport Great Banquet Gathering	29 6:00 PM Oasis Fun Night at Cutler	30 7:00 PM Carroll County Presbyterian Churches Bible Study at Flora	31	

Christian Education

by Barb Mayfield



Fall Sunday School

We will continue with the **Invitation to John Disciples Bible Study** taught by Pastor Mary Ann after fellowship time on Sunday in the classroom opening into the fellowship area.

The DVD Scripture lesson for each Sunday will be shown during worship. The class will view a discussion with a John scholar and a discussion by a small group of lay people before our own discussion of the Scripture for the week. This is an in-depth Bible study with passages to read and think about for every day of the week before the Sunday class. Participants bring their insights with them to the group. If you have a busy week and are unable to read all the materials, come and learn from the group discussion. We will meet October 5 and October 26 (Pastor Mary Ann will be on vacation and study leave on the intervening Sundays). Student books are available (\$14.00) on the table in the fellowship area.



We praise God for wonderful weather and a great turnout for our Oasis kick-off September 17th. A total of 79 children, youth, adult helpers and parents came. A big thank you to everyone who helped out!

“The Family Project”

We invite you to join Oasis as we study what it means to be part of God’s family. We invite you to join other adults and Oasis parents each week for engaging videos and lively discussions. Come alongside our Oasis families as we discover together God’s plan for families. Join us at 6 pm for our free meal, or join the adult class at 6:40. Please come!

Want to help out?

We are still looking for assistants to help with the groups. We also welcome adults to come for dinner to be a group buddy. If you are interested, feel free to show up on any Weds at 6 p.m. and talk to Barb Mayfield.

Please sign up to help with meals –list is in the Fellowship Room.

October Fun Night – Hayride

This year’s hayride will be on Wednesday, Oct 29th hosted by the Cutler Presbyterian Church.

Presbyterian Women

by Jane Bishop



The Mary-Martha Circle will meet on October 21 in the Fellowship Room at 7:00 p.m. The Hostess will be Sally Schmidt; Yearbook of Prayer, ??; Horizons, Libby Sparks; Bible Study, Lola Snaveley.

Thrift Shop Schedule for October

Thurs. Oct. 2..Joan & Libby	Sort&Mark
Thurs. Oct. 9..Jane Bishop	Sort&Mark
Sat. Oct.18..Donna Sholty.....	Cashier
Sat. Oct.25..Laraine MacLauchlan	Tags

Remember the Thank Offering started in 1888 by Eliza Clokey?? Well...about the first of November it's BACK..! More information later.



Worship Committee

by Kevin Clark



As Pastor Mary Ann will be on Study leave /vacation October 7 through 20, our guest speaker will be Mark Good on October 12 and David Smook on October 19.

Communion will be observed on World Communion Sunday, October 5th.



Clerk of Session

by Laurie Brower



October Session meeting was held following Sunday School on September 28th at the home of Laurie Brower.

Stewardship/Mission

by Joe Mayfield.

Fall is officially here. Although I lament the end of summer, fall is a great time to get back into a routine. Are you behind on your pledge or contribution? This is the time to catch up. Are you erratic in your attendance? Set attendance at church as a top priority. Are you feeling guilty about not volunteering? Raise your hand. The comment heard most at our "Gathering on the Past" event on September 21st was "Church feels like a family." In this transitional time for our church, "all hands are needed on deck" for support, care and love. God is faithful, and will be with us into our future.



On the 21st of September the Peace and Global Witness offering was introduced. We will be

taking that offering on World Communion Sunday, October 5th and October 12th. This offering is a chance for us, who have little chance to travel abroad, to be called Peacemakers. Give generously and pray faithfully for peace in our world.



The Personnel Committee of Session has hired Becky Amos, a resident of the Cutler area, as our new secretary. She will be trained by Eunice. Watch the November

Newsletter for information about a retirement reception for Eunice.



Caregiver's Support Group



The Caregiver's Support Group meets the first Monday of every month, 7:00 PM, at our church. (Please note change in day of meeting.)




What's a Christian to do with Halloween?

These days, children associate Halloween with trick-or-treating and candy. But centuries ago, Christians named the night before All Hallows' Day (All Saints' Day) "All Hallows' Eve." As the faithful prepared to remember people who were entrusted to resurrection life, they adopted various traditions to poke fun at death.

Around the world, Christians observe Halloween differently: In Poland, kids pray aloud while walking through forests to comfort souls of the dead. In Spain, tolling church bells remind people to remember the saints. In Finland, so many people light candles in cemeteries that the observance is called "seas of light." Although some Christians steer clear of Halloween, others use it as an evangelism opportunity and provide entertainment alternatives such as harvest parties.

No matter your views, you can remind children that though it's fun to pretend, we can always be ourselves with God. Whatever our features and flaws, we need not and cannot hide from God behind masks. God made us in his holy image and loves us as his holy — *hallowed!* — children.






Puzzle

A promise to the earth

After the flood in Genesis, God promised to “never again ... destroy all living creatures” (Genesis 8:21, NIV).

Directions: Using the picture clues below, write each small word in the blanks to complete God’s promise in Genesis 8:22, NIV.

“As long as the _____ th

_____ ures, _____

and har _____, c _____

and h _____, 1 + 2 = [?] _____ mer

and _____ ter, day and night

w _____ n _____ r _____ cease.”

GENESIS 8:22, NIV

Answer: As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” Genesis 8:22, NIV

First Class Mail

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