

Windows

Serving Burnsville First Presbyterian Church And Its Community Of Believers - July 2009

Thank you, Thom

There are pillars in our church who make things go smoothly week after week, and spend countless hours preparing both for worship and education of our members.

One of those is Thom Koch, ordained as an Elder in our church more than 30 years ago, and in recent years has done a magnificent job as Bell Master for our Bell Choir. He has directed the choir, found a generous donor of additional bells



Thom Koch

and tables to hold them, and perhaps most importantly, allowed the God given gift of creativity to write dozens of wonderful compositions just for the bell ringers and adult choir that we have.

But because of health issues and the worsening health of his Uncle Bob whom he cares for in Thom's home, Thom has resigned. We are praying that issues with his vision will improve, but seeing the music notes has become a task he can't render at this time.

Thom, for the wonder of your music you have written for our church family, for the steady and excellent leadership you have given our bell choir, and for your faithfulness to our church, we thank God for you.

We pray for your health, for your Uncle Bob, and our continued service together.

Summer Folks

My favorite day of the year is Summer Solstice. It's not a holiday that everybody celebrates. In fact, some folks don't even notice when June 21

Looking Outward

by Rev. Maggie Lauterer



by Art Anderson
Gift

rolls around. But I love that ancient celebration day - no gifts, no cooking, just a joyful celebration of Light! I wake up early on that day to see if it's

light yet, and I cannot come inside in the evening until the last sunlight is squeezed out of the day.

Psalm 133 says it all - "From the rising of the sun until it's setting, the Lord's name be praised!" Well, there's more time on June 21 than any time in the whole year to praise God. And we get to praise God in warm, light filled days - what could be better?

It's in these long, warm, light-filled days of summer that our church does the opposite of churches in the low lands - rather than dwindle down, our numbers increase with the smiling faces of those who come to live here in these mountain's summer weather. And how we have grown to love summer because we look forward to the "summer folks" who come back - Martha & Rodney, Gloria & Alex, Skip & Nikki, Bob & Elizabeth, Gary & Rose, Carolyn & George, Joani & Charlie, Lucy & Herb, Don & Nancy, Frank & Kathy, Bob & Jane, Jim & Sue, Ida & Joe, Flo & Earl, Ken & Judy, Lin & Sandy, Joey & Brian, Bobby, Proctor & Ingeborg, Don & Sue, Jon & Wendy, Frank & Evelyn, Harry & Fayma, Dean & Judith, Joan & Ray, Newt & Vivian, George & Aggie, Bill & Patsy, Gerald & Gayle, Larry & Phyllis, and Betty Ann. And who have I missed? That is 60 people!

What I love about these folks is that they don't just come to put their feet up on the back porch rail, but come to be a part of the work of our church. They volunteer to do many of the things that need doing around the church, both on Sunday and during the week, that not only help us but give the year- round people a chance to take a breather. Many of our young families usually travel a good bit during the summer, visiting grandparents and vacation spots, so it's great to have their slots filled by summer folks who will, as we said in Vacation Bible School, "Step up to the plate!"

So welcome back to you, our summer folks - and may God bless you for how easily you slip into place when you arrive. It's as if you never left...



Dear Seniors,

It's time for our Senior Summer Lunch - a covered dish especially for our senior set. It's an opportunity for summer folks and full-timers to bring a covered dish and enjoy lunch on the Martin Lawn (behind the Laughrun House) under the big maple.

We had scheduled the luncheon for July 15 until we realized it was three days after Second Sunday Potluck, so please change the date on the calendar enclosed in the newsletter.

Join us Wednesday, JULY 22 at noon
- we look forward to seeing you! **Please RSVP**
so we'll have enough tables and chairs set up...**Call Aimee at 682-4789.**

Blessings, *Maggie*

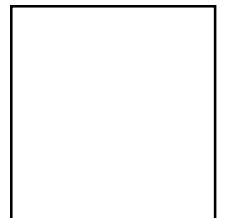
P.S. Plates, utensils, and iced tea/water will be provided.

Supper Clubs in this church have turned out to be a blessing no one exactly understood until they were in full bloom. Close and important friendships have been forged over a dinner plate and we expect that to happen again this summer!

If you'd like to be a part of a small group (six to eight people which includes singles and couples), and meet once a month in the home of supper club members until you choose to end the season, then please sign up on the Fellowship Hall.

Whether you're an old friend or a new friend of the church, you're invited!

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Happy 500th Birthday John Calvin!

Many Presbyterians greet the news that 2009 will mark the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth with a yawn, a roll of the eyes, or even a derisive snort. Why are we so dismissive of our forebear in the Reformed tradition?

Lutherans adore Martin Luther. Methodist hearts are strangely warmed by John Wesley. Anglicans even have a sardonic fondness for Henry VIII. But Presbyterians are uncertain about John Calvin and his legacy. Calvin is not a Reformed idol.

John Calvin would have been pleased by our reluctance to revere him. He did not want to be idolized by future generations. In order to discourage veneration, he specified that he be buried in Geneva's common cemetery in an unmarked grave. Contemporary visitors to Geneva may stumble upon Rue Calvin, but his house no longer stands, and no one even knows where it was.

We need not put Calvin on a pedestal in order to appreciate the ways in which his perspectives on Christian faith and life have shaped Reformed churches throughout the world, and continue to shape our church today.

As the Calvin Jubilee approaches, we can recall some of the ways his thinking has shaped the life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including our understanding of the importance of education for children, youth, and adults.

John Calvin did not view the Bible as a collection of facts to be learned or propositions to be mastered. In one of his delightful images, he likens Scripture to a pair of eyeglasses: "Just as eyes, when dimmed with age or weakness or by some other defect, unless aided by spectacles, discern nothing distinctly; so such is our feebleness, unless Scripture guides us in seeking God, we are immediately confused." We study the Bible, not for its own sake, but because Scripture helps us to see God truthfully, ourselves honestly, and God's Way in the world clearly.

Excerpt above written by Joseph D. Small, PC (USA) Director of Theology.

July 1: His Life and Legacy

In celebration of the Calvin Jubilee, the Office of Theology Worship and Education of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) produced a 60-minute documentary entitled John Calvin: His Life and Legacy.

More than 30,000 English-speaking congregations around the world trace their lineage through John Calvin. He is a figure of remarkable significance in the history of the Reformed tradition. The 500th anniversary of Calvin's birth provides a compelling

opportunity to re-examine his life and thought.

John Calvin: His Life and Legacy combines insightful interviews of well-known Calvin scholars with creative and stunning visuals from such historical places as Geneva and Paris. This documentary will stimulate audiences and inspire a greater passion and understanding of their history as Reformed Christians.

July 8: Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Rise of Nations

Professor Andrew C. Fix, an award-winning teacher and scholar who specializes in the history of ideas in early modern Europe, guides this video lesson. He consistently puts things into a wider context, discussing the causes, implications, and ultimate effects of the unfolding drama that is taking place on the

European stage.

In this lesson, Professor Fix highlights the problems within the Catholic Church and proceeds to an analysis of Martin Luther and the early Reformation, which started as a grassroots movement of ordinary people but was transformed by events into a highly politicized cause dominated by German princes. Branches of the Reformation are examined, including the Swiss Reformation of Zwingli and Calvin, and the Radical Reformation, whose most notorious event was the creation of Anabaptist Kingdom of Munster.

