

## “Walking the Dog”

Volume 10, Issue 8

August 2009



LOOKING UP! GROWING WITHIN! REACHING OUT!

# First Press.

A publication of First Presbyterian Church  
710 Kansas City St. Rapid City, SD 57701



Each morning Gretchen and I rise from our bed, don our workout gear and take our dog “Rough” for a walk around our neighborhood and nearby locations. It usually takes an hour or so, but it really starts our day off in a perfect way. We get out into God’s creation, gain gorgeous views of the sun rising, and breathe in the fresh air of the beautiful Black Hills.

Gretchen, “Rough”, and I always have a running conversation on these daily excursions; often begging Rough to keep focused, walk straight, and stop weaving like a “drunken sailor”! Much of our conversation is about our relationship with God, each other, and with you, our church family, as well as our neighbors in the Rapid City community. Rarely is there a walk that goes by without one of us seeing something new, receiving a fresh insight, or conceiving a novel idea to solve a nagging problem.

Walking the dog is a daily routine. It is also a requirement. If we don’t give our 72 pound Golden Doodle pup his walk, we experience all the joys of a rambunctious, energy-filled 2 year old...“Rough” will not stop nuzzling, nudging, or interrupting until he receives appropriate attention. “Rough” is awesome at reminding us that when we adopted him we took on the important responsibility of providing his total care. Still

the responsibility seems light when “Rough” looks up at us with his big brown eyes, lies at our feet, or puts his head in our laps. His response fills our hearts daily!

Do you want your hearts filled daily? Would you like to have your spirit lifted regularly? Can you imagine receiving frequent insights and new discoveries about your life which help every day? Then I strongly recommend that you start walking the dog. You don’t have a dog? Oh, that does present a problem! You aren’t able to ambulate the way you used too? That is an obstacle! Don’t give up...there is a wonderful alternative!!!!!!

Following our walk each day, Gretchen and I, take another walk, even as “Rough” plops down on the cool linoleum floor. Our second walk of the day is along the Christian way. We sit at our dining/kitchen table and study Scripture using a devotional guide and pray together. Like our daily walk with “Rough”, we see new vistas, glory in God’s creation, and breathe in the fresh breeze of His Holy Spirit...we have a running conversation with God and each other...we lift up our burdens to the Lord, and there is rarely a moment when we don’t receive a fresh insight, discover something new, or discern an appropriate response to a problem area in our lives or that of the community we serve. Walking with God every day is fabulous exercise.

Walking with God is a necessary routine in our day. When we fail to take

this walk, the day never goes as well. Just as when Gretchen and I neglect to walk “Rough”, not making time to walk with the Divine, we find small issues gnaw at us, the positive completion of the day is oft interrupted, or events in our day go horribly awry! As we understand this, this is God’s way of reminding us that, when He gave us the gift of His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, we have a responsibility to cultivate our relationship with Him...to walk with our God daily!!! When we make the time for walking with God daily, His response to our devotion is clear. His love floods our hearts...His ways are evident in our actions...His plans for us to prosper in a life abundant with His blessings becomes known to us with each new day...and His touch is felt as He nudges us with His divine intention and direction through the many passages of our lives!

Walk with God daily. Make it a part of your routine and cultivate your relationship with the Designer of our Days. You don’t need a dog, or even the ability to ambulate, but be sure, it will start out your day in a most perfect way!!!

### **Prayer for September:**

Lord, let us be a people of Divine intention. Cause us to make time to walk with You, attend to Your word, and worship You, individually and corporately, as family and community. Establish our daily walk with You as an essential part of our life! We thank you for giving us this opportunity to draw close to You!!! AMEN.

*Blessings*  
*Bob* +



## Time for Dinner!

Written by P. Zavitz

In my family, growing up in Colorado, with my parents, transplants from Wisconsin who had grown up

during the Depression and the War, dinner was a sacred time.

We took turns, my sisters and I, setting the table and doing the dishes. The table was set completely every night, with knives forks and spoons, each in their correct place, and each girl had a special glass that was only hers to drink from. Doing the dishes took two, one to wash and one to dry. We were

so happy when my mother got a dishwasher (not 'til I was in High School!), but we missed that time together. We never put containers of food on the table, and usually not any pans. Instead, each food, even condiments, was served in its own dish. When I asked my mother why this was, she said, firmly, "Paula, we make it nice for your Dad." In the winter, we ate by candle light every night. We talked and laughed and sometimes argued, but everyone was back again the next night! Looking back, it seems that those meals were the foundation of our lives; the place we set out from and came back to.

I think that attending worship on Sunday serves the same purpose in the lives of believers as dinner did in my life as a child. It is not a hoop that we jump through that will make God love us more. He already loves us completely. It is simply that we need to be there, week after week, making it nice for "our Dad" acknowledging all that He does for us, and breathing in His Life-giving Spirit so we can go out again into the world, until next time.

As summer ends and fall begins, let us commit to worshiping together so we can stimulate one another to love and good deeds! (Hebrews 10:24-25)

## Scared and Ready to Run

Written by B. James



There are a lot of scary things in life. I'm not referring just to monsters under the bed, snakes in the yard or the big ugly spider crawling up your leg right now. Change also causes fear. It makes us uncomfortable and nervous because it is different. As we move into a new school year there are times that fear can be very real for both students and parents. A new school, moving up a grade, greater responsibility, our kid driving for the first time, having to make new friends can all raise our fear level and cause stress in our lives. A lot of the time it can be traced to our concern that we may end up looking like a fool or not fit in and fear can paralyze us.

Despite our constant fears God seems to be going out of His way to seek us. That certainly contradicts the opinions of those who believe that God is distant, removed and impersonal.

I'm still surprised at how often I'm afraid to face things. Even with a belief in a loving God and trusting in His mercy, forgiveness and grace I will still at times live in fear. This is when I need to strap on my running shoes. Not to run from what scares me but to

run as fast as I can to a loving Heavenly Father that will comfort and love me.

Sometimes we just have to feel the fear before we can become free of it. The internal struggle to run from it may be strong, but if we consistently learn to run in faith to God we will discover that the power of that fear slowly dissolves. Of course, this is possible only when we seek our Father and run directly into His loving arms and turn it over to a God that assures us that with Him there is nothing to fear. Protection, love and grace are available to give us the strength to face our fears and throw them into the river, never to be taken up again.

Paul, the awesome apostle and evangelist of the early church, used the running analogy, but rather than running away he emphasized the importance of running towards the goal and finishing the race ([Acts 20:24](#), [Philippians 3:12-14](#), [2 Timothy 4:7](#)).

As we move into the new school year, whether as students or parents, we can overcome our fears by running full speed towards the comfort of God

through faith and our community together. We can't allow change to be the focus but must Embrace the change as an opportunity for personal growth and maturity.

Is the world a scary place? Sometimes. It's also beautiful. We can be timid or bold. Jesus said don't be concerned. Essentially He told us not to sweat the small stuff and that most of what happens is tiny indeed when viewed through His Father's eyes. So let's strap on our running shoes and run along side the One who gives us life. It will be a great year with His help!

Grace and Peace, Bald Bob

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## Two Issues Regarding Stewardship

The stewardship committee has two issues to review with the membership.

They are: 1) Per Capita Tax. The per capita tax per member on the church rolls for 2009 is \$24.00. This amount is what it takes, per active member (not family), to support our state, regional and national associations (The Presbytery of South Dakota, the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and the General Assembly).

The per capita tax totals more than \$11,000 for those currently on the rolls of First Presbyterian Church.

The stewardship committee asks you to prayerfully consider paying your per capita tax in addition to your pledged giving. If we all paid

our per capita tax, rather than session having to approve that payment from church funds, there would be more money to support current and future programs.

2) Member Pledges: Pledges give the leaders of the church an estimate of money that can be used for budgets, church functions, and programs. This includes building and grounds, maintenance and operations, services, staffing, mission support and funding, and other outreach activities toward meeting the "Great Commission" taking the Gospel of Jesus to others.

If you have pledged, thank you. If you have not, please consider making your pledge soon. Session can make plans for your

church when it knows the amount of money that is available.

If you are unable to meet your pledge, due to unforeseen circumstances, you are not held responsible.

Pledge cards are available in the pews or at the church office. A note in the collection plate is acceptable.

The amount you pledge is between you and God.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of these important requests.

The stewardship committee: Darwin Buus, Bob Martin, Doris Dressler, Al Johnson, Dan Redin.

***Check out our website:  
www.firstpresbyrcsd.org***

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## Glowing For the Lord

Written by J. Bunnell

Adults! Beginning on September 13 we will start an adult class called "The Present Word." We will meet in the chapel because we want to have a large enough class to have "critical mass." Having a variety of people enriches the class and helps everyone gain something from the fellowship. Like nuclear material that gets together and glows, you will start to glow for the Lord!

We are going to put our best effort into making the class comfortable,

helpful, and enjoyable for everyone, even people who have been reluctant to go to a class. Don't like lectures? We will have fun, socialable discussions in small groups. Don't like to talk in class? There will be no pressure to say anything. Don't know much about the Bible? The curriculum uses small amounts of Scripture to explore themes. At a point in your life where you don't want to learn any more? Come share your wisdom. On the other hand, if you want to put some extra effort into

God's word, you can take the booklet home and study the lesson material and the suggested daily Bible readings.

Again, this is a class for all levels of background and effort. You will be blessed and be a blessing in every class!

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## Stewardship/Trustees Seek Assistance

Written by B. Martin

We have need for assistance; people who seek a ministry within the church. There are three areas of need:

1. Bus and Van drivers for various church activities, must be licensed to drive.
2. Oversee vehicle maintenance: We have two vehicles, a van and a small bus. We need someone to

be responsible for determining when service needs to be done. This would include taking the units to the appropriate shop to get the work done and maintaining a service file on each vehicle.

3. People to serve on a decorating committee, to determine painting needs, flooring replacement, facility upgrades and remodeling.

Anyone interested in serving the church in one of these ways please contact one of the trustees: Al Johnson, Darwin Buus, Doris Dressler, Dan Redin or Bob Martin. Or you may let the church secretary Liz know.

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## Bell news

Written by D. West

Calling all bell ringers and “Wannabe” bell ringers!! Can you believe it – it’s that time again and YOU are invited! Come and be a part of our music ministry at First Pres – by RINGING our praises to the Lord! Thanks again to

Glendora Estacion for helping with the Youth Bells! Here’s our fall schedule – starting Wed., Sept. 9:

Wed. 4:30 – 5:30 pm – Youth Bells

Wed. 6:00 – 7:00 pm – Adult Bells

If you are a beginner, and want to learn how to play, call DeAun West 342-1996, or email: [deaun@rushmore.com](mailto:deaun@rushmore.com)

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## Farwell but not Goodbye

Written by J. Hammitt

I would be remiss if I were to leave First Presbyterian Church without saying a sincere “Thank You” for all the support, encouragement, and friendship you have given Peggy and me over the last five years. I appreciate the church’s willingness to take a change by hiring a retired college professor who, despite extensive church music experience, had never been a Presbyterian before, for this position. I think it worked out well for all of us.

We especially appreciated the reception after the worship service on the last Sunday in July. It was far more than I had expected, and I believe the choir, under Mic Johnson’s leadership, was largely responsible for pulling it off. The gifts from the choir and the church were wonderful too, and we will enjoy the meals and the purchases the gift cards will make possible. The notes and cards I have

received from individual members of the congregation have been most heartwarming.

I will miss seeing you all on a regular basis, but I know our paths will cross many times in the future. And I know that you will welcome my successor just as warmly as you welcomed me. Thank you, and God bless you all.

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## Presbyterian Hikers Schedule

Written by J. Bunnell

Meet near the street in the parking lot in front of Café Latte (*middle of the shopping center east of Office Depot; look for gray van near the street*). Leave at 8:30 a.m., so

arrive early. Contact person: Jon Bunnell, 431-0959. Church phone: 343-6171. Bring lunch to eat on the trail, water, gear, etc.  
Sept. 12: Crow Peak. 7 to 8 miles,

steep trail; huge views.  
Sept. 26: Bullock Fire Tower. 4 miles to a fire tower near Pactola.

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## Advanced Education Scholarship Awards for 2009

Written by D. Redin

The interest from the First Presbyterian Church Education Endowment Fund is used to provide scholarships for students who are members of First Presbyterian Church or whose parents are members. This year we were able to award seven scholarship of \$1,087 each. Following are the names of the students awarded scholarships together with their field of study:

Amy Berke, Elementary Education at Black Hills State University.  
Danielle Doty, Social Services at Black Hills State University.

Melissa Estacion, Physical Education/Health at Black Hills State University.

Ann Habicht, Chemical Engineering at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

Megan Maxwell, Elementary Education at Chadron State College.

Brooke McPherson, Nursing at South Dakota State University College of Nursing.

Michael Zavitz, Spanish at the University of Denver.

The Scholarship Award Committee offers its congratulations to the award recipients with the prayer that God may continue to bless and guide them in their studies and endeavors.

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## Library News: Norman Vincent Peale Legacy!

Written by R. Bareis

Many of you, as I, have been influenced by reading "The Power of Positive Thinking" by Norman Vincent Peale in the 1950s. Pastor of the Marble Collegiate Reformed Church in New York City for 52 years and founder of "Guideposts," he has written almost 40 books, most expounding on his original theme. Recently I reviewed three of several found in our Library: "You Can If You Think You Can," "Why Some Positive Thinkers Get Positive Results," and "This Incredible Century (TIC)."

Others have echoed his inspirational thesis. Dr. Robert Schuller of the Crystal Cathedral in California (his services are found on the religious channel) carries on his tradition. James Allen has written "As A Man Thinketh." Dale

Carnegie, with his classic, "How To Win Friends And Influence People," put words into action through training sessions (which I attended). The tenets of Alcoholics Anonymous include positive affirmations. And let's not forget Jesus Christ!

Dr. Peale quotes the Bible and other sources: "Be not dismayed...; Be not troubled...; A merry heart does good like a medicine (Prov. 17:22); This is the day the Lord has made... (Ps. 118:24); Bless the Lord O My Soul...(Ps. 103:2-5); and "I have come so that you may have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Space limits expounding on Dr. Peale's philosophy. "Think positively, act positively, image positively, pray positively, believe

positively, and powerful results will be yours." Furthermore, "Find, know, believe in, and give of yourself." Seek out role models and allow their positivity to spill over into your speech and actions. Enhance your spiritual life through reading, meditation, and prayer. Sounds Pollyannaish? Maybe!

TIC relates the major events of the 20th century, decade by decade. Covering the 92 plus years of Dr. Peale's life, I'm amazed at the influence this man had in the lives of many prominent people, including Presidents.

Remember, in these troubled times, as the anthem says, "Be not dismayed whatever betide, God will take care of you."

## Session Minutes

Written by E. Myscofski

The session meeting of 20 August was called to order and a quorum was declared.

The clerks report was given with the following motions presented: Remove Gloria Case from membership roll upon her request, transfer Steve Palmer's membership from FPC upon request, transfer from Canyon Lake United Methodist Church to FPC from Bob and Jan Bass. All motions passed.

The moderator presented the following motions: To approve two baptisms Aug. 30: Jackson Lars Featherstone, Labor Day weekend William Heltzel V and to approve Bob James preaching on October 18 while Rev. Evans speaks at a colleague's retirement ceremony in Pensacola FL. Both motions passed.

No Deacons report was presented.

Christian Education: No Motions.

Congregational Life:

**Church Administration:** No motions

**Personnel Committee:** Motion passed to begin advertising for a Director of Worship Arts position.

**Nominating:** An update was given, no motion.

**Worship:** No motion.

**Stewardship:** Motion to approve the creation of a 403b plan that would be available for the church staff. Motion to give away excess tables and chairs in the children's CE rooms due to storage space and to replace as needed, Motion passed.

Mission: Motion to allocate \$155 for Wheel Chair for ROC to assist the VBS children's fund that was raised. Motion Passed. Blood Drive Oct. 5,

Old Business:

Motion to continue discussion about changing out the keyless entry system from Harvey's. Motion passed. Motion Passed to replace the locks with the proposed keyless entry system

New Business:

Request from Department of Social Services to have a family meeting at FPC to ensure the safety of children in that specific family. Request approved.

## BIRTHDAYS FOR SEPTEMBER

Is your birthday in September? Is it on this list? If not call the office so we can all wish you a happy birthday!

09/01	Nicole Ballard	09/10	Mary Marsh	09/14	Ruth Fryberger		
09/02	Paula Zavitz		Vonda Chamberlain		Margie Smith	09/21	Jacqueline Allen
	Jared Likness		Cheryl Saylor	09/16	Alexis Allie		Landra Chamberlain
	Gracey Brink		Patrick Brink	09/17	Jamie Fischer	09/22	Joe Herreman
09/03	Lois Kluthe	09/11	Nancy Stout		Arlene Bowles		Bryan Rezin
09/04	Peggy Roozing		Ryan Light		Evie Heier	09/24	Dawne Grandpre
09/06	Earl Dailey	09/12	Ron Rabbass		Connor Peterson		Julie McFarland
	Marylou Torrey		Lauree Buus	09/18	Arthur Davis		Brook McPherson
	Maggie Gilliland		Daniel Matkins		Glenn Zaske		Mathew Albrecht
09/07	Ally Gilliland	09/13	Judy Erck	09/19	Jeanne Risdall	09/25	Kathleen Baumiller
09/08	Lois Haynes		Kara Davis		Jessica Elsass		Kayla Aston
	Marie Nordell		Heather Hinson	09/20	Dusty Parker	09/26	Shawn Alexander
					Callie Stainbrook		Dillon Doolittle
					Jim Books	09/27	Sookie Bang
					Shari West Twitero		Brianna Brewer
					Dan Zavitz	09/29	Georgia Osterholt
					Austin DuVall		Lana Chapman
					Jayden Alexander		Lonnie Tutsch

## GREETERS AND USHERS

Interested in becoming a greeter or usher at church? Contact the office or sign up in the Social Room along the East Wall!

### Greeters

6th Jim & Linda Dupre  
13th Diann & Dave Habicht  
20th Charles & Nancy Stout  
27th Larry & Arlene Bowles

### Ushers

Youth Group  
Steve & Amy Berke, Caleb Marler  
Darwin & Lauree Buus, Milton Sklenar, Marv Zimmerman, Cheryl Saylor  
Mike, Kathy, Melissa Berry, Diann & Dave Habicht, Jackie Moore

# September 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1 9:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Bells of the Hills	2 See Wednesday evening schedule below	3 10:30am XYZ Coordinating Team	4	5 7:00am Men's Fellowship
<b>6 Communion Sunday</b> 9:00am Worship service 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday school 6:00pm Young Adult Gathering	<b>7 Labor Day Office Closed</b> 10:00am Membership Committee Mtg Meeting 7:00pm AA	8 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:30 Deacons 6:00pm Bells of the Hills 6:00pm Stewardship 7:00pm Christian Ed 7:00pm Mission Outreach	9 See Wednesday evening schedule below 4:30pm Youth Bells 6:00pm Adult Bells 7:00pm Choir	10 5:00pm Love INC 7:00pm RCAMI.	11 6:00pm Game Night	12 Custer Trail Expedition 7:00am Men's Fellowship
<b>13 KICK Off</b> 9:00am Worship service 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday school 10:30a, Mandatory Parent's Meeting for Children's Program 6:00pm Young Adult Gathering	14 5:30pm Disciple 7:00pm AA	15 9:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Bells of the Hills	16 <b>KICK OFF~</b> See Wednesday evening schedule below 4:30pm Youth Bells 5:30 p.m. BBQ 6:00pm Adult Bells 7:00pm Choir	17 5:00pm Love INC 7:00pm Session mtg	18	19 7:00am Men's Fellowship 9:00am Godly Play Workshop
20 9:00am Worship service 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday school 5:00pm Vespers 6:00pm Young Adult Gathering	21 5:30pm Disciple 7:00pm AA 7:00pm Church Response	22 9:00pm Staff meeting 4:00pm Mission Meal Team 6:00pm Bells of the Hills	23 See Wednesday evening schedule below 4:30pm Youth Bells 5:30pm Meal 6:00pm Adult Bells 7:00pm Choir	24 11:30XYZ Lunch 5:00pm Love INC	25 6:00pm Family Movie Night	26 7:00am Men's Fellowship
27 9:00am Worship service 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday school 5:00pm Vespers 6:00pm Young Adult Gathering	28 5:30pm Disciple 7:00pm AA	29 9:00pm Staff meeting 6:00pm Bells of the Hills	30 See Wednesday evening schedule below 4:30pm Youth Bells 5:30pm Meal 6:00pm Adult Bells 7:00pm Choir			

<b>Christian Education Opportunities</b>			
<b>Sundays 10:30 a.m.</b>		<b>Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b>	
Present Word	Chapel	His Needs, Her Needs	Chapel
Bible Time, Anytime!	Room 10 & Room 2	Walkabout 6-8 p.m.	Room 2
Youth Study	Underground	Embrace! The Youth	Social Room
<b>Mondays</b>			
Disciple 5:30 p.m.	Lounge		
The Gathering 6:00 p.m.	3rd floor Living Room		

First Presbyterian Church

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HAVE YOU RECENTLY MOVED?  
PLEASE LET THE CHURCH KNOW YOUR NEW ADDRESS!  
CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE: 343-6171

## Kirk Moos

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Dale's brother, Earl McPherson will celebrate his 100th birthday, September 16 at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center, Sturgis, SD at 2:00 p.m.

Congratulations to Kassi McPherson, granddaughter of Dorothy and Dale McPherson for becoming the Dally Ribbon Roping World Champion at the National Little Britches Rodeo Assc. Finals 2009 Pueblo Co.

Congratulations to Omel and Edwin Weaver who will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on September 7th!

Happy Birthday Bob Grimm! September 12 , 8:30 a.m. -7:00 p.m. & September 13, 1-4 p.m. Bob will have on display and operate his restored antique tractors and machinery from the last 35 years. All are invited to attend. Location will be 4629 Hidden Valley Road.

**Please Pray For:**

Eadie Townley, Pat Erickson,  
June Jones, Gena Karen, Shirley  
Zaske, Teresa Sigman, Doris  
Pederson, Dorothy Brooks, Lisle  
Owens, Esther Palmer, Doris  
Pigsley, Roy Anderson, Brenda  
Shirk, Earl Dailey, Julie Darger,  
Lois Kluthe, Betty Wells, William  
Auger, Joyce Skeels, Dale

Smith, Erna Gortmaker, Jon  
Anderson, Bob Lind, Harriet  
Wheless, Dorothy Swanson,  
Elizabeth Chamberlain-Smith,  
Frances L. Parker, Paul  
Moreland, Melissa Brumbaugh,  
Dale Smith, Wayne Herreman,  
Maxine Redin, Lois Haynes,  
Raye Dean Rypkema, Lola  
Gettert, Marie Nordell

Please submit your articles for the Newsletter by the 15th of the month. Information to be published in the bulletin should be submitted by the Wednesday of each week. To submit information please contact:

Elizabeth Myscofski  
343-6171  
[fpc@rushmore.com](mailto:fpc@rushmore.com)