

OCTOBER 2010

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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From the Pastor



THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN

Sometimes we forget the deceitfulness of sin. It lies in wait, seeking those opportunities when we are prone to sin or are disposed to receive its false tricks. We reach a point when sin does not seem offensive and dangerous. It seems pleasant, reasonable and worthwhile. King Saul may be one of the clearest examples of how this happens.

When Saul was proclaimed king, he was instructed by Samuel to act when certain signs were clear. After that, he was to gather the people of the Lord at Gilgal and wait there for Samuel to join them and offer sacrifice. (1 Samuel 10:8-9) After waiting the designated 7 days, Saul noticed that members of his army were drifting away and going home. Worried about this loss of strength, Saul offered sacrifices on his own (1 Samuel 13:9). Samuel arrived just as he finished and rebuked him severely. Saul gave what he thought was a reasonable explanation, but Samuel called it what it was: foolishness and sin. (v. 13) A similar thing happens in chapter 15.

Let's consider how we give in to sin's deceit. You are caught in an awkward or embarrassing

situation. You tell a slightly inaccurate lie. Sin catches you. You hear some great praise music that a friend has so you ignore the copyright laws and make a copy for yourself. You fail to meet an obligation. So you make empty excuses instead of asking forgiveness. Our excuses are without number.

What this amounts to is what one friend used to call "sinning to solve a problem." Sin convinces us that sin is the only alternative for the situation. It is so absurd that our Lord warns us that "the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think that he is offering service to God" (John 16:2). When Paul was a persecuting Pharisee, he thought he was perfect!

We know better, or at least we should. We should be on guard against "the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13). Our Lord is our model. In keeping with Roman law, he was asked three times whether he claimed to be Messiah. His answer was a clear "Yes" even though it cost him his life. He was falsely accused but it was necessary. No true testimony could convict him of wrongdoing. He confessed clearly and died—for us!

We face tough situations. Sometimes the solution is hard to recognize. But sin is never the answer. Don't let it fool you.

Pastor David



2010 Missions Conference

November 12, 13 & 14th

Our Speaker: Dr. Peter Kuzmíc



Dr. Peter Kuzmíc is the Eva B. and Paul E. Toms Distinguished Professor of World Missions and European Studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. A native of Slovenia and a citizen of Croatia in former Yugoslavia, Dr. Kuzmíc is the foremost evangelical scholar in Eastern Europe and is considered an authority on the subject of Christian response to Marxism and on Christian ministry in post-Communist contexts. He is a graduate of a German Bible College; received his B.A. from Southern California College in Costa Mesa, CA; M.A. from Wheaton Graduate School, Chicago, IL; and [M.Th.](#) and [D.Th.](#) from the University of Zagreb. In 1992 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Asbury Theological Seminary.

A former pastor of two churches, he is a founder and currently the director of the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Osijek, Croatia, the only evangelical graduate theological institution in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. He is also co-founder and chairman of the Council of the Evangelical Christians of (former) Yugoslavia, and president of the Protestant Evangelical Council of Croatia. As founding president of Agape and New Europe Vision (evangelical relief ministries in Croatia and Bosnia), he takes an active role in ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of his fellow citizens.

An award-winning writer, Dr. Kuzmíc has authored various articles and books including a major study on the influence of Slavic Bible translations upon Slavic literature, language and culture. He has also authored two textbooks, *The Gospel of John* and *Biblical Hermeneutics* and has contributed to numerous compendiums, handbooks and encyclopedias. A columnist for several religious and secular newspapers, he also serves as editor of *Izvori*, a Christian monthly journal in the Croatian language.

From 1986 to 1996, Dr. Kuzmíc chaired the Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Fellowship. He now chairs the Theology and Strategy Working Group of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization. He is one of the founding executives of the Council of Evangelical Christians of Yugoslavia. Dr. Kuzmíc and his wife, Vlasta, have three daughters: Tatiana, Kristina and Petra.

Conference Schedule:

Friday, November 12th

5:45 p.m. ~ Soup and Salad Dinner
7:00 p.m. ~ Worship Service

Sunday, November 14th

8:30 a.m. ~ Worship Service
9:45-10:45 a.m. ~ Field Reports
11:00 a.m. ~ Worship Service

Saturday, November 13th

3:30 p.m. ~ Special Interest Seminars
5:45 p.m. ~ Dinner
7:00 p.m. ~ Worship Service

Youth News

A current pop band sings these words, “Hold on to what you believe, in the light, when the darkness has robbed you of your sight.” As we are getting farther and farther into this new school year, there is certainly a ring of truth to this lyric. Teaching students to value God’s truth, and to hold onto it when times get tough, or dark, is so much of what we are about in the Youth Ministry of First Presbyterian Church. The struggles students face seem to get bigger, but we know that God is stronger. Please join us in prayer for our students as we seek to equip them to live for Christ.

Parents we have a couple of special events just for you. On Saturday, October 2, Professor Bob Whittet from Gordon College will be speaking to us and offering some very practical and useful teaching on parenting teenagers. Please come and join us for this at North Shore Community Church. The seminar is free and will go from 8:45

– 11:30 a.m. And then parents you are invited to Youth Group to meet the leaders that work with your kids and to be a part of all of the fun and excitement. High School Parents come and join us on Sunday, October 3, and Middle School Parents, come and join us on Wednesday, October 6.

High School Youth Group meets on Sunday nights from 6:30 till 8:00. Join us for some great food, friends, i-tunes skits and trivia, time to worship and teaching from the Gospel of John.



High School Bible Study happens on Wednesday nights from 6:30 till 8:00. This fall we will be tackling different issues of discipleship.

On Sunday night, October 10 after Youth Group we are going to be setting up our very own high school drive in movie night and you won’t want to miss it!

Middle School Youth Group is on Wednesday nights from 5:45 till 8:00. We start with huge amounts of pizza and then play some crazy games, skits, videos and then we spend some time worshipping God and learning from his Word. Bring a friend and come on out and be with us!

The Superbowl is coming....not the football game, but the all night, most extreme, most crazy fun night of the year! It is all happening on Friday, November 6. The Superbowl includes lots of crazy inflatable, bungee, Velcro games, all

you can eat pizza, A.H.L. hockey, an inspiring Gospel message, bowling and lots more. Save the date, and be watching for more info.

You can get more information about our Youth Ministry on our new web site at www.fpcnorthshore.com or you may contact Jon Evans, Youth Director, anytime at 978-808-8932 or iamthird@verizon.net

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon". The signature is stylized and appears to be written on a light blue background.



Children's Ministries



Please make an effort to thank the men and women who have committed to teaching Sunday School.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

2 year old: Patrick & Heather Rich, Sarah Jones, Elizabeth Jones, Lois Wilbraham (Sept-Oct), Ann Haas (sub)

3 year old: Carol Chamberlin, Russ Bohl, Leandra Quinn

4 year old: Cindy & Matt Williams, Sandy Jackson, Maya Kline (sub)

Pre-School Opening: Brooke Baker (Sept-Oct)

Kindergarten: Hannah Lombard, Becky Mulry, Lauren Hamilton

Grade 1: Robin Schweitzer, Barbara Grinnell, Cindy Fitzgerald (sub)

Grade 2: Norma Camp, Denise Laganas

Grade 3: Jacki Smith, Lisa Spencer (sub)

Grade 4: Kathleen Blosser, Katie Bell

Grade 5: Randy Van Dyke (Sept-Oct), Greg Smith, Scott Fitzgerald (sub)

FALL MEMORY WORK
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5
(Verse recitation during opening)



3's - Genesis 1:1

4's & K - Psalm 121:5a, Proverbs 3:5a

Grades 1 & 2 - Psalm 23

Grades 3 & 4 - Ten Commandments

Grade 5 - John 1:1-5

HARVEST PARTY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

Come out and join us during our regular Fellowship Night activities where games will be offered like pumpkin bowling, cookie decorating, bobbing for apples, donut eating and lots more. Preschool through Grade 5 are welcome to attend.

Entrance fee is a bag of candy!





Sacred Leisure: God's Invitation to Rest

First Presbyterian Church's Women's Retreat
Friday, October 22 - Sunday, October 24
Brookwoods on Lake Winnepesaukee, Alton, NH

A whirlwind of activities can easily keep us from experiencing the fullness of life that God intends by squeezing out important spiritual perspectives. Peggy Hothem, Gordon College Professor of Recreation and Leisure Studies, will help us consider how we can live with more purpose and communion with God by *slowing down*. We'll reflect on the gift of leisure that provides needed opportunity to rest, wonder, pray, play, receive, create, and experience the joy of friendships, nature, and our relationship to God. Come join us as we explore together the importance of *Sacred Leisure*.

Further information and registration forms can be found in the church foyer or contact the church office at 978-356-7690.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

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