

## How can the congregation share in the sabbatical experience?

- A. Be a part of this opportunity to serve, lead and fill the gaps in creative ways that celebrate the “priesthood of all believers.” WE are the church!
- It will be especially important how we, as the community of faith, take care of those in our midst. If you are aware of someone who is going through a difficult time - pray, visit, call, make a meal, offer childcare, reach out in some way.
  - Help facilitate healthy communication. Make sure Janet Frederick, the staff and Session have the information they need to make decisions and respond appropriately to situations.
  - Support the staff and others who will be taking on increased responsibilities. Pray for them, encourage them, seek out tangible ways to help them.
  - Pray that this sabbatical experience would be all that God would will for the Devines and for our congregation. How will we grow? What will we learn?
- B. The focus at FPC this year is on spiritual formation and the practice of the spiritual disciplines. Join the Devines in daily prayer and reflection on the Psalms using an 8-week reading plan that can be found at the back of the sanctuary or on the church webpage ([www.firstpresendicott.org](http://www.firstpresendicott.org)).
- C. Think about the concept of *sabbatical* personally. How might you make time and space this summer to take a strategic pause in your life in order to focus on your own personal growth, spiritual development and renewed passion?

## A SUMMER OF “R & R” (Reflection and Renewal)

*“By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.”*

*Genesis 2:2*

**A Sabbatical Experience  
for the Pastors and the Congregation of  
First Presbyterian Church of Endicott**

**Summer, 2009**

## What is a sabbatical?

A **sabbatical** is a planned, strategic pause in someone's job, when that person is released from ordinary patterns of work to give attention to other areas. It is an opportunity for intentional reflection, personal growth, transformative insights and renewed passion, which can have powerful benefits in life, work and in leadership.

## Why are the Devines taking a Sabbatical?

- When we celebrated the Devines' 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ministry shared with this congregation (January, 2008), the Session encouraged them to plan a 2-month sabbatical.
- Research shows a sabbatical can be a wonderful opportunity for the congregation to grow and for the pastors to become renewed and more effective in ministry and personal care.
- Data shows that congregational life is often strengthened during a sabbatical, because it helps reduce mutual dependence that holds both the congregation and pastors back from growth and effective leadership.
- This is a good time for a sabbatical because our congregation has strong leadership, broad mission, effective small groups, steady worship and is hopeful about its future.

## What is the Focus of the Devines' Sabbatical?

The sabbatical must include both professional and personal dimensions. On the back of the brochure insert, you will find more information about the actual themes, activities and locations of the Devines' sabbatical.

## How will it work at FPC?

### **LEADERSHIP COORDINATOR:**

The Rev. Dr. Barry Downing will serve as the "Leadership Coordinator" with the following responsibilities:

- Preach once/month
- Provide pastoral care in crisis situations (Deacons and Caregivers in the church will also serve in this capacity.)
- Provide support for the staff.
- Moderate Session, if needed.

### **CONTACT PERSON:**

Janet Frederick, Office Manager and Clerk of Session, will serve as the "go-to" person. For questions, help, information or emergencies, she is the first person to contact at 748-1544 on weekdays and at 625-2106 on evenings and weekends.

### **STAFF AND ELDERS:**

We are blessed with a committed staff, who are very capable of carrying on in their areas of ministry and also ready to help as needed this summer. We also have a strong board of Elders to provide spiritual leadership.

### **COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEVINES:**

As part of the sabbatical understanding, the Devines will be in relationship with, but not in contact with, the congregation. Janet Frederick will be the liaison to the Devines, if needed. Although the Devines will not be answering emails and calls, they will continue to pray for the congregation and will send updates to be shared with the congregation.

Because crises may occur among the congregation during the Devines' absence, one focus of the first week after their return will be to provide pastoral care. They will also meet with staff, but will not schedule other regular meetings.

# Worship Schedule

Worship services will continue at 9:09 am and 10:45 am throughout the summer, **WITH ONE EXCEPTION**. On June 21, there will be one combined service at **10:00 am**, followed by a reception for graduates.

## SUMMER PREACHING THEME: THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

June 14, 2009:	Barry Downing Matthew 5:1-5	(Communion)
June 21, 2009: 10:00 am	Jeremy Finn Matthew 5:6-12	(Recognition of Graduates, Touch of Brass)
June 28, 2009:	Paul Everett Matthew 5:13-20	
July 5, 2009:	Maynard Koplin Matthew 5:21-26	
July 12, 2009:	Barry Downing Matthew 5:27-37	(Communion by intinction)
July 19, 2009:	Robert Heinle Matthew 5:38-48	
July 26, 2009:	Walter Kondratowski Matthew 6:1-4	
August 2, 2009	Barry Downing Matthew 6:5-18	

(over)

August 9, 2009	Cheryl Ann Elfond Matthew 6:19-24	
Aug. 16, 2009	(Devines' first Sunday back) Matthew 6:25-34	
Aug. 23, 2009	Matthew 7:1-12	(Communion by Intinction)
Aug. 30, 2009	Matthew 7:13-23	
Sept. 6, 2009	Matthew 7:24-27	(Conclusion of series)

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### Theme of the Devines' Sabbatical: "An Identity Forged By Relationships"

For 27 years we have lived into our marriage vows and ordination vows together, sharing life through co-pastoring and co-parenting. This sabbatical will give us the opportunity to strengthen the relationships that forge our identity- professionally and personally- by focusing on:

**Our identity forged by our individual relationships with God the Father, Son and Spirit.**

- o Renovaré International Conference on spiritual formation (Eugene Peterson, Dallas Willard, Richard J. Foster, John Ortberg and others) in San Antonio, TX; individual time for personal prayer, reading, reflection, journaling and worship throughout the sabbatical.

**Our identity forged by our reformed faith and our relationship with the PC(USA), at a time when our denomination is experiencing an identity crisis.**

- o The John Calvin Quincentenary Conference (Geneva, Switzerland) and Reformation Tour (Europe), and related reading from recommended bibliography.

**Our identity forged by our relationship with each other as husband and wife.**

- o Opportunities to pursue things we enjoy together (travel, sports, hiking, relaxing, etc.).

**Our identity forged through our relationship with our children who are transitioning to adulthood and independence.**

- o Time with our children to celebrate this season of their lives and our relationship with them as young adults.

