

# First Congregational Church

Rev. Christopher Fox, Pastor

October 2011

## THE CONGRE'TIONAL RECORD

Church Website: [www.waukeganucc.org](http://www.waukeganucc.org)

### From the Pastor's Desk

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The story I am about to share is verbatim in some parts and paraphrased in my own words in other parts. It is one of Rainer Maria Rilke's stories in his book, "Stories of God." One day a man thought to himself I like telling stories to my friend Ewald. The man thought to himself how happy he was that one day Ewald called to him from his window and asked, "Where did that story come from that you shared with me the other day, from a book he asked?" "Yes," I replied sadly, "the scholars buried it in there when it died." It was still alive a hundred years ago, surely without care and on many lips. But the words people use nowadays, these heavy words that can't be sung, were hostile to it and took one mouth after another away from it, so that at the end it was eking out a very withdrawn and shabby existence on one dried-out pair of lips, like someone on a lowly widow's pension. However, some of the relatives of these words took up residence in the form of songs. They were moving from one pair of lips to another. But one day the words took up residence in a heart where it was warm and dark. These stories were passed down in families from one generation to the next. There was one man, Yegor Timofeyevitch, who against the will of his father, old Timofei, had married a beautiful young woman and moved with her to Kiev, the holy city, in the vicinity of which are the

### October



*"To me, every hour of the day and night is an unspeakably perfect miracle."*

- Walt Whitman



First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
320 Grand Avenue  
Waukegan, IL 60085-4225

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## Sunday Service Volunteers

Our Fourth Quarter schedule has been published for volunteers who have graciously given their time and talents to making our Sunday service an enjoyable experience for everyone. If you have not been scheduled to serve in the capacity of liturgist, usher or Communion minister and would like to volunteer starting in 2012, please let Pastor Fox or anyone on the Worship Committee know.

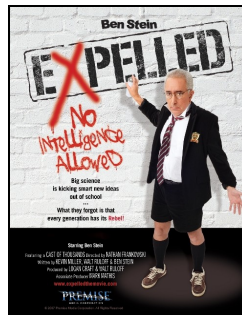
Steven Sabourin



## Movie Night

The movie “Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed”, starring Ben Stein, will be shown on Saturday, October 8th at 7:00 PM. Refreshments will be served with discussion about the movie to follow immediately afterwards. Feel free to bring your friends and family to this free event.

Steven Sabourin



## Treasurer's Report

As of August 31, 2011

<u>Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>
August	\$10,468.69*	\$4,859.45	\$5,609.24

\* Includes a \$5,000.00 transfer from Endowment Fund

This statement is on a cash basis and reflects transactions recorded during the calendar month only.



**Treasurer**

Michael Mader, Treasurer

## From the Pastor's Desk

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lages as well, and the peasants began telling one another that Yegor had turned into a least as accomplished a singer as his father, Timofei. For he knew a great number of grave and heroic songs and those tunes that no one—be he Cossack or peasant—could listen to without breaking into tears. And on top of that, it was said he sang with a sad and tender tone such as had never been heard from any singer. And hence people once again came to know the richness of God and their heroic tales of the saints which once again brought them incredible joy and peace.

I share this very poignant story, because it is an amazing story and paradigm which speaks about the richness of our Christian faith and journey. It speaks about our need to share the stories of the Gospels through our own personal life stories embracing the darkness and stillness of our history. We must like old Timofei teach others our songs and the richness of our tales which make the words and ministry of Christ a source of strength, wisdom, and comfort, and joy to our journey. If we do not sing the tales of our faith journey how will the members of our village come to know Christ and the power of the Gospel and its capacity to bring light and joy and peace to this bleak world of ours? The return of Yegor to his father reminds us of our call to be present to one another even if that means suffering the loss of that which we hold dear in our lives. We must teach each other our favorite songs and tales which speak about the power and presence of God in our lives. Certainly singing our song for others is part of the joy of discipleship. So the next time we meet won't you please sit me down and share your song with me. Please teach me your tune so that I may discover God anew each day and experience joy and peace and God once again.

Rev. Chris Fox

## From the Pastor's Desk

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Timofei wept. They young man asked him repeatedly, "Have you been sick long father?" There had not been any singing in the village for some time now, in fact as long as Yegor had been away...no singing as if there wasn't a soul in it, our village. Word quickly spread that Yegor was back and old Timofei was singing the beloved Russia bylini again...songs of the saints and other fairytales. That autumn the wind blew so fierce that the passersby couldn't tell if there was any singing going on in old man Timofei's house. And there was. Yegor would come so closely to his father Timofei and place his ear up to his father's lips while he sat on the stove. He would listen to the words, barely audible as his father shared more of his repertoire of favorite beloved songs. For many days it went on like this. Timofei kept finding a more beautiful song in his memory. Often at night he woke his son, and making vague movements with his withered, restless hands, he would sing a little song and then another and then another---till sluggish morning reluctantly began to stir. Shortly after the most beautiful song, he died. After old Timofei dide, the house, in which Yegor now lived by himself, remained hsut up for a period of time. Then, in early spring, Yegor Timofeyevitch, who now had a rather long beard, came out the door and began pacing back and forth in the village and singing. Later he went to the neighboring vil-

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## Book Study - "In Pursuit of Purpose"

Best-selling author Myles Munroe reveals in this book the key to personal fulfillment: purpose. We must pursue purpose because our fulfillment in life depends upon our becoming what we were born to be and do. *In Pursuit of Purpose* will guide you on that path to finding God's purpose for your life. Check with Laura or Jim for further details on meeting days and time.



## From the Pastor's Desk

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tombs of the greatest martyrs of the holy Orthodox Church. Father Timofei cursed his son and told his neighbors that he was pretty sure he had never had a son. Nevertheless in his sorrow and trouble he became mute and turned away all the young people who crowded into his hut to receive the heritage of many songs that was shut up in the old man as in a dust-laden violin. The village folks pleaded with Father Timofei, "please just sing us this or that song. You see we want to take these songs back to our village so that others may hear them when evening comes and we can all settle down with the animals for the night. Soon the people quit asking for songs from old Timofei, because he was not faring well. He would have gladly satisfied the young people, because it made him sad to think that maybe very soon his own mute, dead dust would lie over the songs. But if he taught the songs to some of the young folks he would have had to remember his own Yegoruschka, and who knows what would have happened then. Starting very young he had taught his son Yegor, songs, one by one. Young Yegor already knew how to sing many of the songs more accurately then all the village youth in the whole region around. Timofei had taught his son many stories and songs, one for everyday of the year speaking about the legends of the saints. These were the beloved songs of Russia. However, Timofei had not shared some of the most beloved and holy of bylini (fairy tales) with his son. One day the old man sitting in his accustomed position on the stove shaking his head over and over signaling that he would not sing the songs and bylini muttered the name of his son Yegor... barely audible. Nevertheless only God knows how it happened that Yegor decided to leave his lovely wife and child behind knowing that they would be cared for by the alms raised by the church and set out to return home to his father. When Timofei heard the stranger's voice, he was startled and jumped down off the stove on his wobbly old legs. Yegor caught him, and they held each other in their arms.

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# October 2011

**Liturgist**

2nd - Todd S.  
 9th - Frances M.  
 16th - Jim F.  
 23rd - Steven S.  
 30th - Emily S.

**Communion Ministers**

2nd - Mike M. & Jim F.  
 16th - Emily S. & Mike S.

**Ushers**

2nd - Dolph O.  
 9th - Ann S.  
 16th - Todd S.  
 23rd - Jason W.  
 30th - Patrick G.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00 AM Service with Communion	3	4	5 6:30 - 8:30 PM Grand Avenue Zen Group	6 <i>Anna Witt-Kite - Birthday</i>	7	8
<i>Potluck Social</i>						
9 10:00 AM Service	10	11	12 6:30 - 8:30 PM Grand Avenue Zen Group	13	14	15
16 10:00 AM Service with Communion	17	18	19 6:30 - 8:30 PM Grand Avenue Zen Group <i>Allie Pederson - Birthday</i>	20	21 <i>Deadline for November Record Articles</i>	22
23 10:00 AM Service	24 <i>Paula Pavelski - Birthday</i>	25	26 6:30 - 8:30 PM Grand Avenue Zen Group	27	28	29 <i>Gail O'Connor - Birthday</i>
<i>Ann Siepker - Birthday</i>						
30 10:00 AM Service <i>Emily Savage - Birthday</i>	31					