

PASTOR'S CORNER



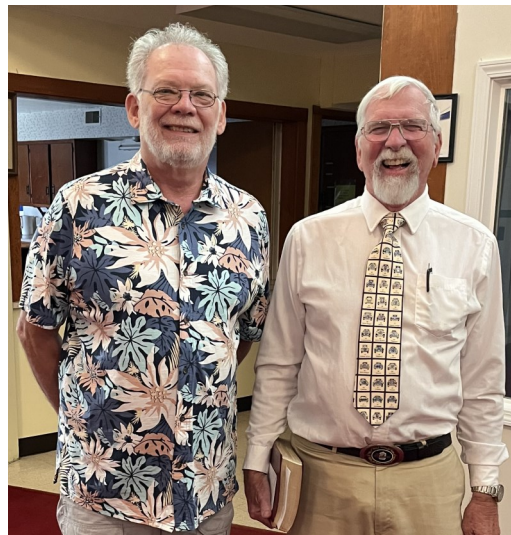
Thank you Dr. Billie Bates for a wonderful sermon on July 2nd. Everyone really enjoyed the hymn you sang. Thank you Ron Clow for your assistance.



Thank you again Dr. Carolyn Weber for preaching at our church on Sunday July 9th and administering Holy Communion.



Dr. Carolyn Weber enjoyed preaching at our church and getting to know our church family. She said she may come back and just worship with us some time. What a wonderful lady she is. She posed for a picture with Ron and Mary Clow outside our church in front of our stain glass window and sweet gum trees.



Thank you, Reverend Gerald Boultelle, pictured with Elder Ron Clow, for coming to our church and giving another awesome sermon. We feel so blessed that you would travel from Petersburg to Gibson City to preach for us.



Thank you, Ron Clow, for preaching on July 23rd. You did a good job and it is much appreciated.



Thank you, Janice Swanson, for preaching on July 30th. Great job as always.

PRESBYTIDINGS

August 2023

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

This Newsletter is a publication of First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City IL.

Website: www.firstpresbygibson.org

Meladee Ferguson: Administrative Assistant

Mary Clow: Ministry Coordinator

Peace With God

By Quentin A. Holmes, Central Presbyterian Church, Eugene, Oregon

In a world of strife and pain, Christians can have peace with God. Many of us long for peace in the world, as have generations before us. Sometimes it feels as if our world is headed in the other direction! In contrast, Jesus said, "My peace I give to you... let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." (John 14:27). The late evangelist Rev. Billy Graham used three key words repeatedly in his preaching: Fact, Faith, and Feeling (in that order). Through Billy Graham's lifetime of preaching, thousands of people came to know the peace of God.

Fact: Christ came, lived, died, and was resurrected for our sins. This fact is often expressed through the words of poems and the words of hymns: "He came to pay a debt He didn't owe because we owed a debt we couldn't pay."

The Bible does not call upon us to believe something that is not credible, but to believe in something that transcends all

history. To believe that the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, done for sin and sinners, is effective for all who trust in Him.

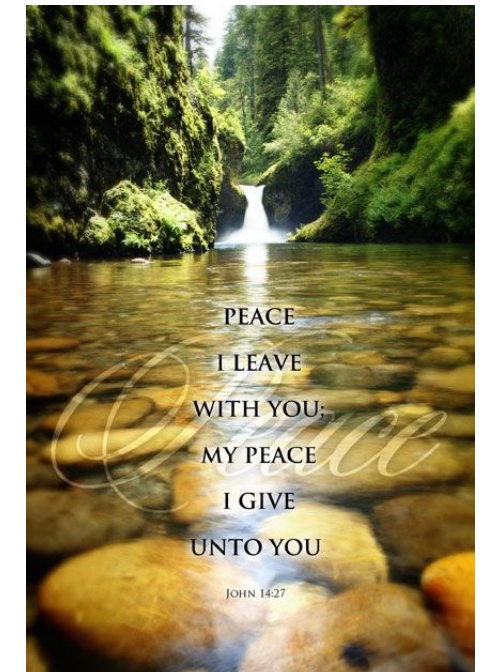
Faith: Faith is rationally impossible when there is nothing to believe in; faith must have an object. The object of Christian faith is Christ. Faith involves more than an intellectual assent to the claims of Christ. Faith involves the will. It is volitional. Faith demands action. Faith actually means surrender and commitment to Christ. You and I do not know Christ through our five physical senses, but we know Him through the sixth sense that God has given every person, which is the ability to believe. Believing is an experience as real as any experience. In Romans 1:15 the Apostle Paul writes, "He who through faith is righteous will live."

Feeling: When we understand something of Christ's love for us, just as we are, we respond with love for Christ, and love has feeling. It is a love that frees us from self. Love for Christ is above human love, yet there is a similarity. In human



marriage there is commitment. Feelings come and go. Commitment stays. We who have committed ourselves to Christ have feelings that come and go – joy, love, gratitude, etc. However, the commitment remains unchanged. In 1 John 4:18 we read, "...but perfect love casts out fear." And those who love Christ have confidence in Him that raises them above fear.

The peace of God does not mean that no ill will ever befall us. Rather, it means that God is always there with us. Through good times and through really tough times, God will be with us ALWAYS.



PEACE
I LEAVE
WITH YOU;
MY PEACE
I GIVE
UNTO YOU
JOHN 14:27

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 <i>RECYCLE</i>
6 10:30 a.m. Worship: Dr. Billy Bates <i>Collage of Faith concert at UMC of Melvin</i> <i>Matthew 14:13-21</i>	7	8	9	10	11 <i>Meladee has been with FPC for 9 years.</i>	12
13 10:30 a.m. <i>Mrs. Jean Williams 2:30 p.m. Jake's Boys last concert at United Methodist Church</i> <i>Matthew 14:22-33</i>	14	15	16	17	18	19 <i>RECYCLE</i>
20 10:30 a.m. Worship Rev. Gerald Boutelle <i>Communion</i> <i>1st Samuel 16:1-13</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:30 a.m. Worship Rev. Connie Bandy <i>Matthew 16:13-20</i>	28	29 <i>5:30 Session</i>	30	31		

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH . . .

First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=142499619134911&ref=br_rs

Meladee’s working hours:
Meladee will be in the church office from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Email Addresses: As part of the hardware and software upgrade for our church’s technology, email addresses as noted below:

Meladee
Office@firstpresbygibson.org.

THE NEW FLOWER CHART IS up on the bulletin board outside of the secretary’s office.

Next Session meeting will be Tuesday, August 29, 2023.

August is the time to reap what you’ve sown, quite literally even, as most summer vegetables are ready to be harvested. It goes without saying, that August then is a time to celebrate a good harvest and a good summer!

August is also a little bit unique, most of the time at least. In a standard year, there is no other month that begins on the same day of the week as August. In a leap year, however, August begins on the same day of the week as February.

On August 6, 1762, the first-ever sandwich was created, at least with such a name. It was named after the Earl of Sandwich when he requested a dish involving meat between two pieces of bread. As the story goes, he requested it as he was in the middle of a gambling game and didn’t want to interrupt it.

There are some pretty fascinating holidays spread throughout August which are celebrated in different parts of the world. On August 1st, we have World Scout Scarf Day, as well as the Official Birthday and Coronation of the King of Tonga (try saying that in one go!). August 5th is National Underwear Day (US), August 11th is Mountain Day (Japan), August 16th is National Rum Day (US) and August 20th is World Mosquito Day. What a month!

As there are only 12 months in the year, there are of course many incredibly famous and important people who have been born in August. Some of the more influential include Barack Obama, Usain Bolt, Sean Connery, Jennifer Lawrence, and Whitney Houston.

The US also has some pretty delicious-sounding observances for the month relating to food! In August the US celebrates National Goat Cheese Month, National Panini Month, Peach Month, and Sandwich Month.

So, there you have it, that’s August in a nutshell! No matter where you are in the world, August is a pretty wonderful time of the year.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		<p><i>Second Sunday Offering</i></p> <p><i>Aug 13: Head Start</i></p> <p><i>Sept 10: Gibson Area Music Foundation</i></p> <p><i>Ushers</i></p> <p><i>Aug: Gene and Mary Jane Roth</i></p> <p><i>Sept: Janice Swanson & Jeanette H.</i></p> <p><i>Communion Servers</i></p> <p><i>Aug 20: Jean Williams and Sharla Williams</i></p> <p><i>Sept: To be announced</i></p>	<p>meaning “the sixth month” in Latin. It wasn’t until around 700BC that August was rudely shoved back in the order of months when <u>January</u> and <u>February</u> were added to the beginning of the year by King Numa Pompilius.</p>
<p>August</p> <p>12: John and Ruth Davis</p> <p>18: Valeree Johnson</p> <p>21: Teresa Alexander</p> <p>24: Tim and Janice Swanson</p> <p>31: Sandy Brucker</p>	<p>September</p> <p>06: Allen Neubauer</p> <p>17: Gene Roth</p> <p>17: Danny Heustis</p> <p>21: John Kirkpatrick</p> <p>26: Val Hunt</p> <p>26: Ted Swanson</p>		






August was once the sixth month of the year. In the original ten-month Roman calendar, the month went by the name of Sextilis,

THANK YOUS AND MORE

Dear First Presbyterian Church, Thank you for the \$1,000 scholarship. I am truly honored to have been selected for this generous award. It will be a significant part of helping me pay for my education. With abundant gratitude, Kale Douglas Bauer

To Whom It May Concern: I wanted to write in appreciation for awarding me with the Thomas McCormick Tutoring and Scholarship Program. I look forward to using the money earned for furthering my education. Ever since 8th grade I have really enjoyed making an impact on individuals and the community as a whole. Thank you for recognizing that. Thank you for your time! Sincerely, Emily Fehr

Dear Presbyterian Church, Thank you for the donation to help pay for our grant writer. It is very promising that we will get some grants to fix the Burwell Opera House (Loys). This old building has so much history that you are helping us to save. God bless, Sharon Heavilin, G.C. Restoration Association

We have lost someone very special . . . Thank you for sharing our grief. The Family of Colin Eric Kristensen—First Presbyterian Church: Thank you so very much for your generous donation to GCMS FFA in memory of our Colin. We are touched by your big hearts and Christian love. Sincerely, Lori, Jay, Kate and Evan

Meladee and Church Members: Thanks so much for your kindnesses to me while serving your church for these two Sundays. Mary passed along your wonderful bag of gifts, many from the wonderful 150th Anniversary of your church. Each item is very useful. The cross is very beautiful and reminds me of you all whenever I see it. After worship last Sunday, as I was driving through the center of

town, I looked up to see the wonderful banners flying at each intersection. I took some photos of them and am sharing them with other churches who are searching for ways to attract more worshippers. My prayers continue for your Pastor Nominating Committee. I pray that the Lord will bring His chosen one to you in His perfect time. God be with you all till we meet again. In Christ's love, Carolyn Weber (Rev. Dr.)

Dear First Presbyterian Church, On behalf of the Gibson Area Hospital Foundation, thank you for your VIP sponsorship of our 1st Annual Nash Bash! Our Nashville style event featured line dancing lessons, delicious food including Nashville hot chicken, a retro cake walk, and the grand finale of the night was a concert by Brushville! It was a great time to mingle and enjoy the beautiful scenery while supporting the GAH Foundation. This event would not have been possible without support like yours and we Thank You! Proceeds from our events all go to help purchase necessary equipment for Gibson Area Hospital and fund scholarships for our employees to help further their education in healthcare. We have been able to provide vehicles for our couriers, an ambulance, and an ultrasound cart just to name a few items. Thank you for your support and donation to the GAH Foundation's Nash Bash! Sincerely, Dan Boyce, Director of Development, Gibson Area Hospital Foundation

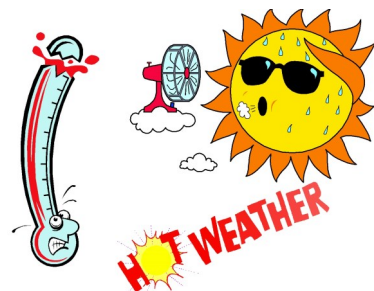
Dear Friends, Thank you for your support of those who were called to the service of our country. My focus was to serve as a Navy Corpsman which was a blessing in and of itself: both as a surgical tech and later as a chaplain. God bless you all!! In His Love and Service, Stan DeLong. GOD BLESS AMERICA!



Thank you, Danny Heustis, for running the sound board during Sunday services.



Thank you, Ron Clow, for placing our Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award in a shadow box and hanging it on the wall.



COLLAGE OF FAITH

Sunday, August 6 at 3:00 p.m. at Melvin United Methodist Church

The popular gospel group, Collage of Faith, will perform at the Melvin United Methodist Church on Sunday, August 6, at 3:00 p.m. Collage of Faith is a southern gospel group of eight area singers. Their songs consist of some older, familiar songs and newer, more contemporary southern gospel songs. The group will also break down into smaller, ensemble groups. Group members are Lonnie and Monica Conner of Decatur, Dennis Garmon of Lovington, Bob Crossman of Authur, Bobbi Welch of Atwood, Sara Dueringer Rawlins of Atwood and Bill and Shari Schnable of Atwood. Their name reflects 'the differences we have as individuals but we come together as a Collage of Faith on the power of the love and grace of God'. Their motto is "Trying to touch one soul, with one song, one day at a time." A freewill offering will be taken and a social hour will follow the concert in the church fellowship hall. If there are any questions, contact Kay at 217-388-2440.



Jake's Boys in concert on Sunday, August 13 at 2:30 p.m. at The United Methodist Church of Gibson City!

Jake's Boys, a popular area gospel group, will perform their LAST concert at the United Methodist Church of Gibson City at 206 East 10th Street, Gibson City. They will begin at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 13th, 2023. Jake's Boys is an eight member Central Illinois Southern Gospel Group. In October of 1996, a small group of community players from the Gibson City area started rehearsing "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat". The musical is a modern day opera filled with song and dance about Joseph and his eleven brothers, all who were sons of Jacob. Under the guidance of executive director Jean Stocker and music director Krysti Brucker, the cast and crew began one of our most challenging productions. The first couple of months of rehearsals were a lot of hard work and progress was slow as we struggled to learn all the words and music. But then something wonderful started to happen. Practices became something that we all looked forward to each week. We began to bond together with a fellowship very much like a brotherhood. We hated to miss a practice; not because we thought we would fall behind but because we hated to miss out on the camaraderie. This mutual feeling of brotherhood continued as we presented "Joseph" six times during February and March of 1997. Each one of us felt a certain loss when it finally sunk in that we were done; that there would be no more rehearsals or performances. To help fill the void that we felt once "Joseph" was over, eight guys from the cast and crew got together one Wednesday night in April to sing. We didn't know what songs we were going to sing or who was going to sing which part, but we were going to get together. Only the Lord really knows how we settled on eight members. He must of had other plans for the rest of the cast and crew. We asked Fran Davis to join us as our accompanist. We told her that we wouldn't need her very long. Just four or five weeks, six at the most to help us learn some of our songs. Our first performance was in June of 1997 at a joint worship service for the First Christian and First Presbyterian Churches of Gibson City. From that point, we have been on a wonderful trip with our Lord Jesus guiding each step of the way. We don't know exactly where our journey is heading, but we do know that we will grow where the Lord has planted us and that we will continue to share His love through music, words and fellowship.



Val Hunt had a fun day at a Villas of Hollybrook event on July 19th featuring Nettie's Petals of Paxton. Daughter Dori Groom and granddaughter Stacy Johnson joined her and enjoyed making their own bouquets.



Pictures from the Wissmiller-Fink Reunion on June 25, 2023 held in the fellowship hall. Jeanette Hensley and Verla Williams are pictured above.



Dorri Groom, pictured with Jean Williams, on her 70th birthday.



Dorri Groom's 70th Birthday celebration at Ryan's Pier in Aroma Park. Dorri's mom, Val Hunt, and aunt, Donna Dionne.

Dorri Groom's 70th Birthday with her daughters Sara Groom Boucek and Stacy Groom Johnson.



Dorri with her sister, Judy Jo Hunt Arbor and her daughter, Sara Groom Boucek.



GETTING TO KNOW . . . ERIC HEINEKAMP

My current call is to Blackhawk Presbytery as transformational General Presbyter and Stated Clerk. It's two jobs combined, and they work well together. I have been in this role for nearly 3 years. I previously served part-time as a pastor for one of the churches in Blackhawk and part-time as Treasurer for Presbytery of Chicago (and for a short stint, part-time Associate Clerk for Blackhawk). I am also serving part-time as Treasurer for Blackhawk until we find someone to do that work. I like having lots of plates spinning at one time.

The work I do is always interesting because no two days are the same. Some of my work is on Presbytery matters like planning assembly gatherings or attending committee meetings. Much of my time is spent coaching our 68 congregations on strategic matters, connecting churches and pastors, and providing guidance on all sorts of topics. I appreciate the opportunity to preach regularly and really enjoy leading training sessions and events that inspire and bring church leaders together.

I stay busy with big remodeling adventures around the house. The current project is gutting and rebuilding a master bathroom which means lots of trips to the hardware stores. I have been married to Patty, my high school sweetheart, for 43 years and we are fortunate to see our three adult children and five grandkids regularly. We love good music from "back in the day" and just saw the band *Chicago* for the third time. I am always reading at least three books simultaneously (especially spy novels and biographies) and I always have a jigsaw puzzle in progress. My newest interest is Tai Chi, which I do almost daily.



Mission Donation

Session approved a \$2,000 donation last month to Nathan and Liana Walden who are Missionaries for the Campus Crusade for Christ Organization. CCU has 6,306 campus locations worldwide. The request for the donation came from Tim and Janice Swanson who know the Walden's. What Janice liked best was that they are working on college campuses. They were recently in Africa but their home base is in Long Island, New York.

MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – JULY, 2023

July, 2023

Year to Date June.....	\$112,900.00
Make a Splash Against Cancer	
-5 th grade GCMS Student.....	\$ 2,000.00
Rent for Angela Martin.....	\$ 950.00
Year to Date July.....	\$115,850.00

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Pastor Nominating Committee (Ron Clow, Jean Williams, Tim Swanson, Charlie Schultz, Sharla Williams, and Administrator Mary Clow) met on June 29th and July 6th. Ads placed in the Champaign, Bloomington, Charleston, and Mattoon papers and online with Indeed and ChurchFinders.Com resulted in twelve resumes being received. Each resume was reviewed by the Committee and one resume was chosen for a follow-up preliminary phone interview that was conducted by Ron Clow and Tim Swanson.

As directed by Blackhawk Presbytery, the Committee also began the process of gathering information to be entered into the Presbytery Church Leadership Connection online Pastor Search software. It required the completion of a Ministry Profile Information document which included identifying competency matching criteria for the person we are looking for to be our new pastor. Narrative questions were also answered outlining our vision, the skills required, specific tasks the new pastor would be responsible for and how all of this will impact the Community we live in. However, the Presbytery CLC Software Program is being updated and will not be immediately available to use for another 30 to 60 days.

It was agreed upon by the Committee that we would seek a part-time Pastor or Commissioned Pastor or Teaching Elder that would most likely be hired with a one-year contract that would be renewed annually. However, this would be negotiable depending on if the number of hours worked would be set at 20 hours or 30 hours per week. The Pastor Job Description was also updated to reflect the changes.

Please pray for courage and strength for the Pastor Nominating Committee to have God's wisdom, understanding and insight to seek and find the right person for us. Pray that the Lord will give the person chosen a personal love for Jesus, our Church and our Congregation and provide us with the Spiritual Leadership we so desire.

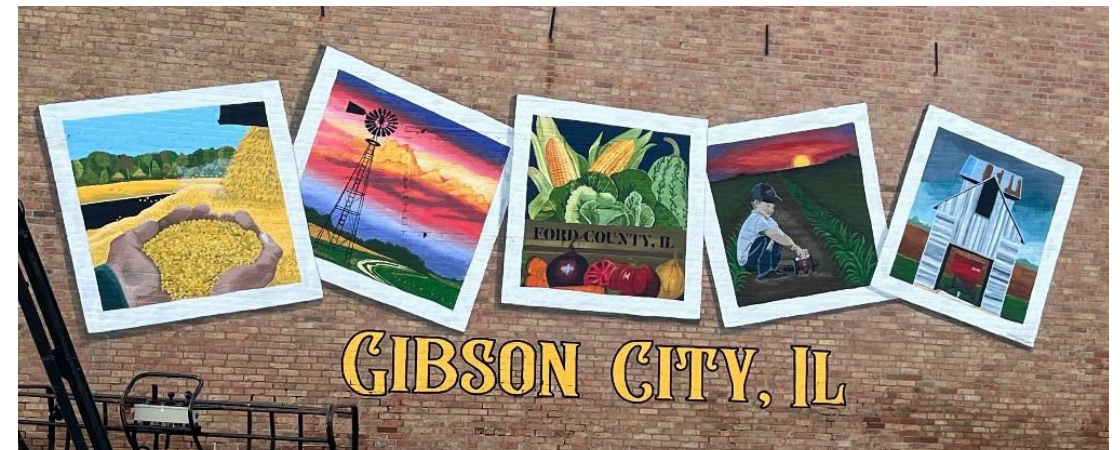
SECOND SUNDAY GIVING FOR AUGUST

The Head Start Program is the Second Sunday offering for August. Head Start is a program of the United States Department of Health and Human Services that provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and families. The local program is in our building and has been a long-term mission of the Church. The feeling of joy and love is contagious during the school year when observing the students engage in learning and reading and playing in this nurturing environment provided by loving teachers.

The climbing cabin at the North Park has been installed. Mission Funds and Jerry Wissmiller Memorial Funds paid for the picnic tables and benches located around the cabin.



The Gibson City Mural Project is done. The work was completed by Megan Wellborn. The detail and colors are amazing. Our church donated money towards this project.



Exciting News on the Gibson City Nativity Set: Mary Clow, working with Ellen Hanks and Cathy Steidinger, put together bid specifications for the restoration of the Nativity Set (that sits downtown at Christmas time) and sent it to two restoration companies. They were thrilled to receive a quote of \$3,500 from Church Supply and Warehouse in Wheaton, Illinois for the work. This will include cleaning all five of the pieces, repairing holes and repainting as needed. They also came and picked up the set on July 21st at no extra cost. The set was purchased in 1987 by the Gibson City Council of Churches. It is a Fountanini by Roman Nativity Set made by the Artisans of Tuscany in Italy. Some of the donations made at the time included our church, the Presterian Women, Larry & Virginia Ricks, John Kaufman and other churches and organizations in the area. Funds from the Hank & Phyllis Brickman and Dale Ashmore Memorial Funds have been pledged to help pay for the restoration. Letters are being sent out to other area churches asking for additional donations so a new house can be built to display the set in. The current house has a roof leak and a hole in the plexiglass. With all the history of the Nativity Set, these ladies felt it was important to restore it and keep it safe and secure for many generations to come to enjoy.



Addison Kerchenfaut (far right) received an award as the most improved at the GCMS High School Track and Field award ceremony on June 28th.



Pictured above: Denise Birky, pictured above, is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for July. There were (16) sixteen entries (Janice Swanson, Jean Williams, Phil Noellsch, Barb Williams, Jeanette Hensley, Jodi VanSwol, Val Hunt, Mona Summers, Denny Fisher, Sharon Collings, Sherry Tomlinson, Denise Birky, Darrell W. Tilford, Julie Wissmiller, Reverend Dr. Stan DeLong and Danny Heustis .) Anyone receiving this newsletter is eligible to win a \$25 gift card to County Market. Please see the **PINK** colored card in the center of this publication to play. Turn it in to the Church office by August 25! Not at the church: mail it or place in the black box outside the east church door. Be certain to read the Bible verses attached to the puzzle. I found every word listed in the August Puzzle. Meladee



Ron and Mary Clow ran into Karen Ladd at the Walmart in Champaign. It was so great to see her and catch up. She said Larry is doing well. I told her we sure miss both of them. What a lovely couple. She said to tell everyone hi.



A simple, but cheerful, bulletin board by the kitchen was put up by Mary Clow.

SOMEDAY

By Mike Hastings

Someday the wait will be over
The eastern skies will fill
With those who burst forth from the grave
With saved ones living still.
Christ will fulfill His promise
And come back for His own,
They'll join with Him, there in the clouds
As He prepares to take them home.

Someday we'll be reunited
With those who've gone before.
We'll join above, with those we love
Who have trusted in our Lord.
We'll sing new songs in glory
We'll walk on streets of gold,
There'll be sights and scents and sounds
Such as we have not been told.

Someday all this will happen
Thus, the Gospel should be shared
So those who don't know Jesus
Have the chance to be prepared.
So that on that day when He returns
They too, shall fly away.
Just in case it happens to be
That today is that someday.



The Community Garden is overflowing with corn, tomatoes, squash, cabbage, green beans and more. Thank you Ron and Mary Clow for putting up the Don't Pick Sign.



Chuck Taylor fertilizes his garden including his Mammoth Sunflowers that are growing strong and tall. We can't wait to see their beautiful yellow sunflower heads peaking out over all those bountiful vegetables.



