

## The Story...Getting to the Heart of God's Story

The Rev. Dr. Peter Reynen preached a thought-provoking sermon in late June, in part, on Romans 12:1-2: *Therefore, I urge you brothers (and sisters), in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.* Dr. Reynen reminded us that Scripture reading, prayer and worshiping/fellowshipping/serving alongside other members of the Body of Christ are three disciplines that help us live out this urging from the Apostle Paul.

In late July I was reading *Transforming Church Boards into communities of spiritual leaders* by Charles M. Olsen and this text was a key in his idea of how our ordained and installed boards of Elders, Deacons and Trustees can do 'worshipful work' in their various ministries. We are to present our entire whole selves to God. We are to be seeking God's will first and foremost in all areas of our lives. We are to be growing in our faith; that is what the great Reformed word 'sanctification' means. And many times it begins with our thoughts, our intentions, our minds.

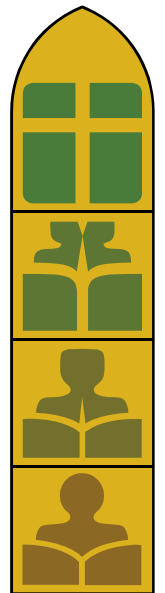
'Renewing our minds' is never easy, especially when it means being different from 'the pattern of this world'. Change is rarely easy and counter-cultural change can also be threatening to those around us who like or are comfortable with the status quo. However, the good news is that we do not have to do it alone. The good news is that we know this is God's desire for us, so God will provide the Holy Spirit to help us!

So, as we prepare for transitioning out of summer mode and into the fall kickoff of our educational programs looking at *The Story*, I want to encourage us to begin (or if you have already begun, to continue) the three-pronged approach suggested by Dr. Reynen. Living into Romans 12:1-2 requires prayer, Scripture reading and in being in community worship.

We have already begun praying for *The Story's* impact on us, our community and beyond through our Seasons of Prayer on Sunday morning. I invite you to include that prayer in your devotional lives during the week. Being immersed in God's Word and a worshipping community already takes place at least on Sunday mornings. The Educational Ministries Team wants to expand that even further, by encouraging you to join a small group that will also look at *The Story*. Currently the plans are that *The Story* will be taught by me during the Wednesday morning men's and women's Bible studies, as well as during the Wednesday night program. *The Story* will also be taught to the children and youth on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights by various facilitators. *The Story* will be taught at Bill Carter-Sue Lyon's Sunday morning small group; it is currently being taught at the Tuesday Friends small group.

We are looking to add more small groups, based on desire, throughout the week and in accordance with your busy schedules. But we need you to sign up in Fellowship Hall, or call Tammy Hulett in the church office, to let us know of your interest and availability. Finally, you are encouraged to buy your copy (\$5 for adults; there are also versions for preschoolers, elementary students and teens) of *The Story*, and invite your friends or neighbors to join us. (If you have ever wanted to read the Bible from cover to cover, now is your opportunity to do just that, with the rest of our church family!)

In His service, Deb



Learn  
&  
Grow

# From the Trustees...

## Statement of Income & Expense June 30, 2013

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Percent of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
Pledge	175,510.00	88,435.00	87,075.00	50.4%
Non Pledge	20,000.00	14,099.92	5,900.08	70.5%
Investment In- come	50,000.00	23,313.93	26,686.07	46.6%
PerCapita	3,570.00	2,258.89	1,311.11	63.3%
Carry Over from 2012	25,500.00	0.00		0.0%
Misc Income		2203.39		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>274,580.00</b>	<b>130,311.13</b>	<b>144,268.87</b>	<b>47.5%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Personnel	164,000.00	70,705.68	143,320.82	43.1%
Educational Min- istries	5,000.00	1,325.02	3,674.98	26.5%
Fellowship	1,550.00	798.97	751.03	51.5%
Deacons	750.00	182.50	567.50	24.3%
Mason Road	1,400.00	467.55	932.45	33.4%
Mission	25,190.00	14,072.41	11,117.59	55.9%
Property	71,450.00	33,893.81	37,556.19	47.4%
Worship	5,240.00	1,027.75	4,212.25	19.6%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>274,580.00</b>	<b>122,473.69</b>	<b>202,132.81</b>	<b>44.6%</b>
<b>Differential</b>		<b>7,837.44</b>		

Per Capita  
Apportionment  
For 2013 is  
\$32.87



## Newsorthy Notes



Have you ‘note’iced the brighter lights in the kitchen and office area? Grateful for electricians and new ballasts!

Have you ‘note’iced the brighter, cleaner look in the back of the sanctuary and on the sanctuary pillars? Grateful for Mike, the Michelangelo of our facilities, and Elder Jesse McCormick for his help with pews, lights, etc.



Have you ‘note’iced the Watch Word Bible dvd set in the lending library in the parlor? It is the complete New Testament on 10 dvds.

### Worship in the Summer Schedule

Season of Prayer begins each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

**August 4:** Communion; special music by Coleen Francik-Young and Cheryl Lotz. *Lessons from Luke: Prayer*, based on Luke 11:1-13.

**August 11:** *Lessons from Luke: Rich Fool*, based on Luke 12:13-21. Special music by Ramona Sandrock.

**August 18:** Choir providing special music; *Lessons from Luke: God Provides*, based on Luke 12:22-31.

**August 25:** *Lessons from Luke: Freedom*, based on Luke 13:10-17. Special music by music ensemble.

**September 1:** Communion. *Lessons from Luke: Priorities*, based on Luke 15:1-10.

**September 8:** Kickoff Fall Programs & *The Story* begins.

## Kickoff/Rally Day/Welcome Back Sunday

We have yet to name our Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> worship-Sunday school-cookout-afterwards celebration day, but that doesn’t mean we cannot have you save the date on your calendars!

You have already seen the articles and heard the announcements that Sunday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> begins our fall programming and everything that has to do with kicking off *The Story*. But the Mariners and Educational Ministries Team are adding to the joy by hosting an all-church cookout right after worship in the parking lot adjacent to the church, at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Washington streets. Not only that, but there will be a dunk tank, where the children can try to dunk our Director of Educational Ministries, Tammy Hulett. The possibility of dunking another staff member is also in the air ... ☺.

So plan on spending a few hours with us on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, beginning with Sunday school/small groups at 9 a.m., worship at 10 a.m. and a cookout at 11:05 a.m. You’ll be glad you did!



# 5th Sunday Dirty Hands Work Day

Photos by Ed Whitmore



To First Presbyterian Church,  
I want to extend a sincere thank you for  
your help in cleaning up the Community  
Garden in South Hill.  
We are most grateful.  
Many blessings,  
Dana Atkins  
President, South Hill Neighborhood Assn.



# Tales from Tammy

The Mom's Group is hosting a family pool party and your family is invited! Saturday, August 3 at 11:00 a.m. we will meet at the West Burlington Pool for some fun in the sun. Our kids will have a chance to have fun together and the adults will be able to get to know each other better. If your child/children would like to go, but you cannot go, let me know as soon as possible and I will make arrangements for them to go and be closely supervised. The cost of admission is \$4.00 per person. I know that money is tight, so if the cost is too much please let me know. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me, [tammy@1stpresb.org](mailto:tammy@1stpresb.org), anytime. We hope to see you there!



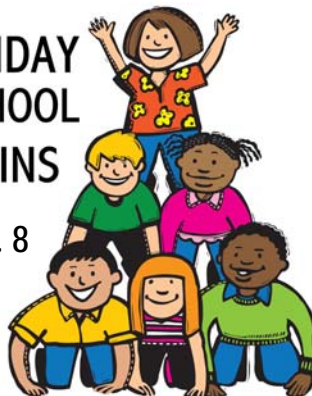
Sunday School is right around the corner and this year we will be studying *The Story*. *The Story* is thirty-one beautiful messages of God's love and care for his children. Each lesson is designed so that your child will be made completely aware of God's message through the Bible verses, the stories, and various activities.

While we as a class will explore God's Word, we encourage you to extend that exploration to your home. Share your own love of his Word with your child, talk about what you are learning in your adult class, allow your child time to freely talk about and ask questions about what is being learned. Be sure to encourage sharing of the activity sheets or have your child tell you the Bible story that has been highlighted each week. Even allow your child to tell you about some of the discussions that have taken place and continue them at dinner or family reflection time! Look for the weekly Parents' Page. Read and do some of the activities that are part of the Parents' Page sent home each week.

This will be a family experience. God is the all-loving Father; we are his children. As *The Story* unfolds for all of us here at First Presbyterian Church, share the experience with your child. We have been blessed with this incredible story! Let's help make our children incredible and faith-filled storytellers.

**SUNDAY  
SCHOOL  
BEGINS**

**SEPT. 8**



Worship  
 3 Sunday worship services; 2 installation/ordination of officers  
 Christian Education  
 Led 2 Bible studies on Wednesday mornings  
 Connections  
 18 Drop-ins/appointments/calls/notes  
 3 hospital visits  
 Church Meetings  
 Deacons  
 Session  
 Trustees  
 Missions  
 Worship  
 Orientations for incoming Elder, Deacons, Trustees  
 Staff meeting (3)

Church Activities/Events Attended  
 Snake Alley food booth  
 Education  
 Prep for Bible studies/sermon  
 Presbytery  
 Provided 1 spiritual direction session  
 Other  
*Connections* articles & coordination  
 Lifetouch Pictorial Directory  
 Worship service prep  
 Separate meetings with staff (6)  
 Community  
 Change of Command service for IAAAP  
 Funeral service  
 Study Leave  
 2 Sundays, 5 days

Worship  
 Young Disciples (5)  
 Church Service (1)  
 Church Meetings & Events  
 Meetings with Pastor (3)  
 EMT Meeting (1)  
 Attended Women's Bible Study Group (1)  
 Working in Kidz Zone (4)  
 Meeting with Young House  
 Snake Alley Art Fair Booth  
 Vacation Bible School

Contacts  
 Phone-calls and e-mails: 50+  
 Education  
 Children's Sermon Prep (4)  
 Kidz Zone Prep (3)  
 Gathering information and materials for VBS  
 Working on VBS  
 Godly Play Training in Chicago  
 Other  
*Connections* articles

# Church Happenings



## PW News

There is no meeting in August.



Summer is almost over and the patients in 3JC University of Iowa Children's Hospital are still getting treatments to overcome their illnesses. They have not been able to just have fun like other children so the gifts you give for the Treasure Chest mean a lot to them. Please bring a gift and put it in the Treasure Chest in Fellowship Hall to send to them. Thank you for your continued support and for giving God's love to each child.

**Janet Calvin**

## Yum-Yum Club

On Thursday, August 15, the Yum Yums plan to meet at Little Mexico in Mt. Pleasant at 6 p.m. for dinner. If you would like to carpool, meet at the old K-Mart Plaza at 5:30 p.m. Call Toddy or Mike Gorman to make a reservation: 208-0842.

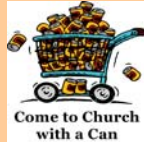


## Volunteers Needed

There are openings in August and fall for Ushers and for Fellowship Hour volunteers. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

## Come to Church with a Can

CCC goal is 1200 cans for 2013.  
Total collected is 570 food items.



*Happy Birthday!*

**ELDERS:** Arnie Anderson, Charles Bell, Carol Brotherson, Dick Fischer, Jesse McCormick, Cindy Murphy, Marilyn Nuss, Julie Schulthies, Bonnie White.

Clerk of Session: Ted Francis

**DEACONS:** Nancy Beetner, Rex Beetner, (vice moderator), Barbara Blom, Curtis Blom (moderator), Cathy Brink, Adele Coulter, Ruth Francis, Barb Garcia, Sue Gilchrist, Sandy Russell, Mark Scott & Sandy Smith

**TRUSTEES:** Connie Bowen (Secretary), Carl Boley, Jean Miller (Vice President), Kel Stensland (President), & Ed Whitmore.

**Treasurer:** Marilyn Leight

### **COMMITTEE MODERATORS:**

Educational Ministries: Arnie Anderson	Maintenance: Jesse McCormick
Fellowship: Bonnie White	Mission: Julie Schulthies
Gifts/Memorials: Charles Bell	Nominating: Marilyn Nuss

- August 1.....Sandy Smith
- August 7.....Julane Hugg
- .....Judy Nalley
- .....Alice Naylor
- August 10....Alexis Van Winkle
- August 12..... Kathi Linn
- August 14.....Jack Naylor
- .....Sandra Walz
- August 15..... Judy Parks
- August 17.....Lou Harter
- .....Bob Snider
- August 18.....Leo Laue
- August 19.....Andrew Simpson
- August 23.....Rudy Naifeh
- August 24..... Ramona Sandrock
- August 25.....Barb Garcia
- August 26.....Nick Clayton
- .....Marilyn Nuss
- August 30.....Jordan Huddleston

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>31</b> No Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> FPC Night @ Bees Game	<b>1</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Gems	<b>2</b> Office Closed	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>7</b> <b>7:15 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>8:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>8</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Gems <b>5:30 PM</b> EMT	<b>9</b> Office Closed	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Team	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Stated Presbytery Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>7:15 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>8:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>15</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Gems <b>1:30 PM</b> Hope Haven Birthday Party <b>6:00 PM</b> Yum Yum Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Choir <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>21</b> <b>7:15 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>8:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir	<b>22</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Gems	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Officer Training
<b>25</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship	<b>26</b> Connections Deadline <b>6:00 PM</b> Mission Committee	<b>27</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>28</b> <b>7:15 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>8:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir	<b>29</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Gems	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

First Presbyterian Church  
 321 N 5th Street  
 Burlington, IA 52601