

For more than a decade, the Gems have been a part of Thursday mornings at the church. Begun by the Rev. Sue Krummel in the early 2000s, the Gems provided fellowship, fun, spiritual nurture and service to and by the senior members of our congregation. Led for several years by Dr. Don Allgood, the small group folded bulletins, played games, attended lectures and toured Iowa. They had Bible study and social activities, both in Fellowship Hall and in assisted living facilities. And like most good things that eventually come to an end, so too the Gems have decided to stop meeting. Thursday, Feb. 20th, the Gems met for their last time as a group. Below are some photos from the Gems over the



# Glimpses of Grace

Dear Church Family,

During one of our small group studies of *The Story* in February, we looked at two of the miracles in the book of Daniel. I asked each group if miracles still occur today. While there were some differing views on the definition of a miracle, the consensus was, Yes! God is still making miracles happen in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. At the end of that week, several events happened that reinforced my conviction that the miracles may be small and they may be larger than life, but when we ask God for eyes to see them, the prayer is answered on many levels. What was the last miracle you saw? As Mr. Shirley Webster, who turned 89 years young on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> notes often, getting up in the morning and being able to see your toes is a miracle he appreciates every day.

As I was getting ready to write this *Glimpses*, a member reminded me of the webcam that is once again focused on the Decorah bald eagles, who are making a nest in preparation for their eggs being laid. The miracle of the seasons of life, the miracle of spring coming after the amazingly cold and snowy winter we had, the miracle of being able to watch bald eagles build a nest and hatch eaglets that will hopefully grow into great birds of prey are just a smidgeon of the miracles around us all the time. I encourage you to ask God to open your eyes to His work in our midst, and then share some of those miracle sightings with others.

One miracle we are reminded of every year around this time is the miracle of God's amazing love for us, sinners though we are. We will remember that love anew as we worship together the first Wednesday of March for Ash Wednesday. The first day of Lent reminds us that *we came from dust and to dust we will all return*. The imposition of ashes reminds us that we are mortal and every day we live is a miracle and gift from God. As we make our way towards the miracle of Easter and celebrating Jesus' resurrection, we also are reminded that while we are mortal, while we are sinners, God loves us, to the point that He makes a way for us to live forever with Him. We are reminded, as Hebrews 12:2 shares, that Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, endured the cross for us, willingly, and, dare I say it as Hebrews does, with joy? With joy? With joy! Jesus was not dragged kicking and screaming to the cross. 'Jesus, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.' Someone has said it was not the nails that held Jesus to the cross, it was His selfless love for you, for me, for the world. Talk about a miracle!

As we make our way through the Lenten season, we are encouraged to pause and remember this miracle of God. The traditional purpose of the 40 days of Lent is to prepare us, through prayer, repentance and self-denial, for the celebration of Easter. I encourage you to view it as time to also let God show you Himself and His loving miracles in our midst.

In His service,  
Deb

# From the Trustees...

## Statement of Income & Expense January 31, 2014

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Percent of Budget
<b>Balance For- Income</b>	<b>\$28,020.00</b>			
Pledge	175,325.00	14,057.00	161,268.00	8.0%
Non Pledge	24,000.00	1,156.96	22,843.04	4.8%
Investment In- PerCapita	21,000.00 3,000.00	359.25 321.22	20,640.75 2,678.78	1.7% 10.7%
Misc Income		350.00		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>251,345.00</b>	<b>16,244.43</b>	<b>235,100.57</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Personnel	167,195.00	10,669.49	156,525.51	6.4%
Educational Min- Fellowship	4,150.00 1,550.00	11.43 54.65	4,138.57 1,495.35	0.3% 3.5%
Deacons	750.00	0.00	750.00	0.0%
Mason Road Property	1,400.00 73,000.00	1,229.35 9,585.09	170.65 63,414.91	87.8% 13.1%
Worship	4,700.00	155.31	4,544.69	3.3%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>251,345.00</b>	<b>20,475.97</b>	<b>230,869.03</b>	<b>8.1%</b>
<b>Differential</b>		<b>-4,231.54</b>		
Mission Committee-	\$28,800.00			
Mission Budget	\$26,295.00	1,116.14	25,178.86	4.2%

Per Capita  
Apportionment  
For 2014 is  
\$34.02

# Staff Reports

January 2014

Pastor Deb Kinney

## Worship

- 4 worship services/seasons of prayer
- 4 memorial services

## Education

- 18 *The Story* small groups

## Connections

- 9 Drop-ins/appointments/calls
- 7 home/hospital visits
- 17 cards sent

## Church Meetings

- Trustees
- Worship Committee
- Session Church Activities/Events I Attended
- Knitwits

## YumYums

- Congregational Meeting
- 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration
- Retirement party

## Presbytery Activities/Meetings

- Moderate Session at Mediapolis
- Presbytery Leadership meeting
- CPM Leadership Training in Buffalo, MN
- CPM duties to prepare for meeting

## Other

- 1 Spiritual direction session
- Connections*
- Separate meetings with staff (2)
- Prepare small group studies
- Young House Board meeting

# Dir. Of Educational Ministries

January 2014

Tammy Hulett

## Worship

- Young Disciples (3)
- Led Godly Play (1)

## Church Meetings & Events

- Meetings with Pastor (4)
- Working in KidZone (3)
- KidzQuest (4)
- Bible Study (4)
- Led Wednesday a.m. Bible Study (1)
- Led Sunnybrook Bible Study (1)
- Congregational Meeting
- Attended High School Bible Study

Attended Carter's Bible Study

## Contacts

Phone-calls and e-mails: 30+

## Education

- Children's Sermon Prep (4)
- KidZone Prep (4)
- Attended Children's Ministry Expo

## Other

- Connections* articles
- Gathering information and materials for VBS
- Cooked Wednesday night meals (4)

## Serving You

We recently let you know of a new element added to our member care. In the event Pastor Deb is unavailable, and on weekends/holidays when the church office is closed. Mark Scott will be the Deacon to call **if you are unable to reach Pastor Deb via her cell phone (319) 750-6216** or through the church office. Mark will be responsible for making sure the Deacons are aware of the needs and then will contact the appropriate Deacon.

Mark can be reached at the following numbers: M-F at work, 752-2637; evenings and weekends, 753-2639 home and cell 750-6809.

Please do not assume we know when you or a loved one is hospitalized.

The Deacons recently discovered that due to a downsizing in the spiritual care department of the local hospital, some things have changed. No longer are we assured that those who have said they are Presbyterian or affiliated with First Presbyterian Church will be mentioned when we call to ask for member patients. That means we need your help when you or a loved one is hospitalized or in need of a pastoral or deacon call. We would rather have 5 of you call to let us know than have someone in the hospital about whom we are unaware. Thank you!





# NEWSWORTHY NOTES



Please give a huge ‘thank you!’ to Mike and Toddy Gorman. They have been coordinating the monthly dining group YumYums for over 5 years. That is a lot of restaurants and reservations! They have recently handed over their coordinating napkins to Bonnie White and Sue Lyon.



Please give a big ‘woohoo!’ to Zachary Hulett. In January Zach competed in his school’s spelling bee and was top speller in his class and he placed 6<sup>th</sup> overall. Zachary was also one of three students chosen to represent his school in the Scholastic Bowl, competing alongside the La Harpe school district. Zach’s team will compete against other school districts in West Central Illinois.



Have you ‘note’iced the signs in our restrooms about putting only toilet paper in the toilets? We, like the city of Burlington, have had issues with people throwing wipes into the toilets and causing blockage in our pipes. We know that some wipes say they are flushable, but we ask that you use the wastepaper baskets in each stall to dispose of them instead. It will save us some extra plumbing bills in the long run! Thank you for your consideration and help.



Souper Bowl Sunday was a great success! The kids enjoyed making the signs and decorating the tables. Hopefully you took the time to look at all of the signs, they got very creative and really worked hard on them. We were able to raise \$178 and we also had many people donate food, all for the local food bank. A big thank you to everyone who helped support this project.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MARCH



**March 2:** Communion will be served; Special music by the Hallelujah Handbells; *The Story*, Chapter 21/Nehemiah; Nehemiah 8:1-8, 9-17; *The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength*.

**March 5:** Ash Wednesday, 7 p.m. Communion by intinction; Imposition of ashes; Malachi 2:17-3:5, 3:16-18; *‘Fearing’ God*.

**March 9:** Lent Begins, no *The Story*; *Malachi 3:6-15, 4:1-6; Robbing God*.

**March 16:** *The Story*, Chapter 22/Jesus’ Birth; John 1:6-8, 3:16-21; *Good News Scandal*.

**March 23:** *The Story*, Chapter 23/Jesus’ Ministry; the Rev. Dr. Peter Reynen preaching.

**March 30:** *The Story*, Chapter 24/No Ordinary Man; Deb Scott preaching.

## New Members Class

Interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church? Do you have a desire to find out what it means to become a member? Are you ready to join FPC? Pastor Deb will be conducting an Inquirers/New Members class Saturday, March 15 from 9 a.m. to noon. Attending these classes does not require you to join; you are welcome to just come and learn about the church, its programs and staff and what being Presbyterian is all about.

Those desiring to join will meet with Session members at the March Session meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. New members will then be received on Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Deb. The class will be held in Fellowship Hall. Please call Sandy Morrison in the church office by March 12<sup>th</sup> to confirm your desire to attend.



## Lenten Cantata...by Millie Comiskey

This April our choir will join in a collaborative effort with the choir from Zion UCC, (just up the hill) to present the Lenten Cantata **Behold the Darkness** by Benjamin Harlan. The cantata will be presented on Maundy Thursday (April 17<sup>th</sup>) in a combined worship service held at Zion. I will be conducting the choir and Janice Gibson, the choir director and organist at Zion, will be accompanying us.

If you are interested in joining the choir for this special service, we will be holding three **Wednesday evening rehearsals: April 2, 9 and 16 from 7:00-8:30.** We already have the music and will be purchasing CDs so singers can start listening. This is a great opportunity to sing with a larger group. Early estimates that Janice and I have put together put us at close to 20 singers - we would love for that to go up! If you enjoy singing and would like to join us for this short-term commitment, please call the office at 752-6626 or email me at [millie\\_comiskey@yahoo.com](mailto:millie_comiskey@yahoo.com) by **Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>** so we can order you a CD!

If you are not a singer, please plan on joining us at Zion on Thursday, April 17 to hear this wonderful work and an evening of reflection of Jesus' Journey to the Cross.

# Readings for Wednesday groups for *The Story*

March 5	Ash Wednesday NO Wednesday studies	April 9	Chapter 25/Son of God; Chapter 26/Hour of Darkness
March 12	Chapter 21/Nehemiah	April 16	Holy Week, NO Wednesday studies
March 19	Chapter 22/Jesus' Birth	April 23	Chapter 27/Resurrection
March 26	Chapter 23/Jesus' Ministry <i>The Men's and Women's morning study will be a combined group, taught by Tammy...plan on meeting in the Chapel at 8:30 a.m.</i>	April 30	Chapter 28/Early Church
April 2	Chapter 24/No Ordinary Man <i>The Men's and Women's morning study will be a combined group, taught by Tammy...plan on meeting in the Chapel at 8:30 a.m.</i>	May 7	Chapter 29/Paul's Ministry
		May 14	Chapter 30/Paul's final days
		May 21	Chapter 31/Heaven



# Thank You



The Fellowship Committee would like to thank everyone for attending the Birthday Celebration Dinner on February 16th. The dinner was well attended by 64 people. It was a special day for all of us to celebrate our birthday and to be able to touch the lives of patients at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital by bringing a gift for the Treasure Chest. There were 127 gifts in and around the Treasure Chest. Also, \$45 was contributed to purchase more gifts to send in the future. Every gift brought to share is special and will bring joy to each child as they get to choose a gift after their treatments. Thank you for sharing God's love to each child.

Blessings to you, *Bonnie White & Janet Calvin*

# Kids Against Hunger

A church local mission project with "Kids Against Hunger" is set for 10:00 AM, Saturday, March 15, at Messiah Lutheran Church (2411 West Ave). A sign-up sheet for 26 mission workers is located in the Fellowship Hall.

# Church Happenings

## PW News

March 5, 2014

**Co-Hostess:** Joan Hertzler @ Bickford  
**Co-Hostess:** Penny Rucker  
**Study Leader:** Donna Siefken  
**Mission:** Toilet Tissue for Hope Haven



Happy Birthdays!

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

✓	Marianne Briggs.....03/01	✓
✓	Brian Opiekun.....03/02	✓
✓	Tammy Hulett.....03/03	✓
✓	Nadine Ibbotson.....03/03	✓
✓	Irene Kress.....03/03	✓
✓	Tanner Orton.....03/03	✓
✓	Miya Lunsman.....03/05	✓
✓	Polly Rein.....03/09	✓
✓	John Dewey.....03/12	✓
✓	Jim Elmer.....03/14	✓
✓	Connie Bowen.....03/20	✓
✓	Brock Schneden.....03/20	✓
✓	Craig Gilchrist.....03/21	✓
✓	Marilyn Lyday.....03/23	✓
✓	Craig Francis.....03/25	✓
✓	Fran Naifeh.....03/30	✓
✓	Chuck Rucker.....03/30	✓

## Yum-Yum Club

Fourteen people braved the elements of a rainy and windy evening to enjoy a get-together for the Yum Yum group. It was held at Big Muddy's and all enjoyed the evening of good food and visiting. The Yum Yums plan on meeting at Carlos O'Kellys on Thursday, March 20th at 6:00. To make a reservation, please call Bonnie White at 752-1244 or Sue Lyon at 753-0683 for reservations. All are welcome even without a reservation.



## Come to Church with a Can

CCC goal is 1200 cans for 2014.



Total collected is  
256 food items.

Dear Pastor Deb and members of FPC,

Thanks so much for the books, pen and prayer shawl. Also for those who were able to make my retirement Open House.

Much appreciated!

*Debbie Opiekun*



I wish to thank everyone for all the birthday cards and kind words I received at my 80th birthday party. You made it a party I will never forget. Again, thank you.

*Carl Boley*

I would like to thank all of you for the cards, thoughts and prayers during my recent knee replacement and recuperation. Thanks too for the meals that were lovingly prepared for us. It is truly a blessing to have a caring church family.

*Sandy Morrison*

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you for the birthday cards on my 92nd birthday. Love, *Jane Snider*

**SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM:** Arnie Anderson, Charles Bell, Carol Brotherson, Dick Fischer, Jesse McCormick, Cindy Murphy, Marilyn Nuss, Julie Schulthies, Bonnie White, ruling elders. Ted Francis, Clerk

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


**GOD'S STEWARDS TEAM:** Carl Boley, Connie Bowen (Secretary), Jean Miller (Vice President), Kel Stensland (President), & Ed Whitmore (Treasurer).

We want to thank you for the gift of a stocking cap & sweater given to Clyde while his cancer treatment of stem cells during the Christmas season. Your congregation's thoughtfulness & prayers were appreciated beyond words! Our fight continues but knowing even strangers are thinking of you gives us strength. Every trip to IA City & future holiday seasons we will remember your kindness.

*The Hovicks*





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 AM 'Story' Groups 10:00 AM Worship 7:00 PM 'Story' Teens	3 2:00 PM The Story @ Sunnybrook	4 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Master Gardeners-Fell. Hall	5 9:45 AM PW 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship	6 6:00 PM EMT Meeting 6:30 PM Nominating Committee	7	8
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:00 AM 'Story' Groups 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Mission presentation 7:00 PM 'Story' Teens	10 2:00 PM The Story @ Sunnybrook	11 9:00 AM Staff Meeting	12 7:15 AM Men's 'Story' 8:30 AM Women's 'Story' 9:30 AM Knitwits 6:00 PM Handbells 6:00 PM The Story 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM 'The Story'	13	14 7:00 PM MOMS	15 9:00 AM New Members Class 10:00 AM Kids Against Hunger
16 9:00 AM 'Story' Groups 10:00 AM Worship 7:00 PM 'Story' Teens	17 2:00 PM The Story @ Sunnybrook 7:00 PM Session Meeting	18 9:00 AM Staff Meeting	19 7:15 AM Men's 'Story' 8:30 AM Women's 'Story' 6:00 PM Handbells 6:00 PM The Story 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM 'The Story'	20 1:30 PM Hope Haven Birthday Party 6:00 PM Yum Yum Group	21	22
23 9:00 AM 'Story' Groups 10:00 AM Worship 7:00 PM 'Story' Teens	24 Connections Deadline 2:00 PM The Story @ Sunnybrook 6:00 PM Mission Committee	25 9:00 AM Staff Meeting	26 8:30 AM Men & Women 'The Story' 6:00 PM Handbells 6:00 PM The Story 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM 'The Story'	27	28 7:00 PM MOMS	29
30 9:00 AM 'Story' Groups 10:00 AM Worship 7:00 PM 'Story' Teens	31 2:00 PM The Story @ Sunnybrook	No Bible Study on March 5.				

**Wednesdays through May 31**  
*The Story* for men at 7:15 a.m. in **Parlor**; *The Story* for women at 8:30 a.m. in **Chapel**.  
*The Story* for elementary children at 6 p.m. in **Rainbow Room**. *The Story* for middle school at 6 p.m. in **basement**.  
*The Story* for adults at 6 p.m. in **Chapel**;  
*The Story* for adults at 7 p.m. in **Chapel**.  
Handbell Practice at 6 p.m.  
Choir Practice at 7 p.m.

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