

Kickoff Sunday & Beyond...by Pastor Deb

Once again, we are changing things up slightly as we enter into the fall season of programming. The first change begins with our Kickoff Sunday, Sept. 7. Yes, absolutely we will be worshipping God through music, communion and the Word at 10 a.m. Yes, the Sunday morning classes of Godly Play, the Carter small group and the middle/high school will begin at 9 a.m. Yes, we will celebrate after worship with food in Fellowship Hall.

So, what is different? First, that Sunday we will be hosting our international missionaries, David and Sara Treece and their 4 children. We will be hearing a bit about their ministry in worship and they will have a table in Fellowship Hall afterwards. They will also be taking some time to meet with the Godly Play children, the youth and the Carter group individually prior to worship. Second, the spaghetti lunch, once again hosted by the Mariners and the Educational Ministries Team, will also be a fund-raiser to continue our support of Alexander, the boy from the Dominican Republic.

Probably the biggest change will come later in the month. Instead of our traditional Wednesday night programs for children, youth and adults, we will be having a new program on the **4th Sunday** of the month. In keeping with our fall sermon series theme of *Neighbors in the Kingdom of God*, we will be seeking ways to put our love into action for those God has said are our 'neighbors'.

The first **4th Sunday** will be Sept. 28th, from 5-6:30 p.m. It will include a potluck supper and then separate programs for the children, youth and adults. Everyone is welcome, including your friends, family and neighbors who may not currently have a church home. All the groups will have time to discover who is the 'neighbor of the month' and then make plans on how 'to love those neighbors' in the coming days.



In last month's *Glimpses of Grace*, I shared that some of the 'neighbors' in our midst are the Egyptian Coptic fellowship, the Homeless Shelter, Salvation Army, recipients of the Boomerang Backpacks, the Treasure Chest, Community Action, our painting efforts through the Paint-a-thon and beyond, Aldo Leopold Middle School, our homebound members/special friends, Alexander and the Treece family. I know there are more, and the groups gathering on the **4th Sunday** may come up with additional neighbors we can love and serve this program year. I hope you will make plans to join us!

New Adult Ministry...by Tammy Hulett

Starting this fall, there will be a new Adult Ministry Group. The format will be new and hopefully appeal to more of our congregation. More information will be coming soon. If you have any questions, please see Tammy.

Glimpses of God's Grace

Dear church family,

As you know, I spent two weeks at San Francisco Theological Seminary this past summer as part of my continuing education. I have been asked once again by an esteemed church member to share what I learned. As I work toward my Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.), he asked about my growth experiences, when I might be receiving my degree, what my doctoral dissertation might be, how my educational journey not only expands my personal world but also will be of value to our congregation, etc.

Because I cannot think of a good venue in which to orally share this information, I will try to answer the questions in this *Glimpses* and in future *Glimpses*, because what I learned and continue to learn as I read, discern and plan for my future studies impacts who I am as pastor, as Christian, as Presbyterian, as neighbor and as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

First the facts: I have one more 2-week intensive class to take, to finish my coursework. That will happen either next summer or the following summer. I have to submit a dissertation topic project proposal in the next few months, with a bibliography of 25 sources. It needs to be approved by the seminary folk in the D.Min. department. Within 6 months of its approval I need to submit the dissertation project proposal that will determine the focus of my work, and it needs a bibliography of at least 50 sources. Once that is approved, I begin work on my project and then write a dissertation about what I did and what I learned. Once written, it too will need approval from the seminary folks before I am finished. I have about 3 years in which to complete this; if all goes smoothly and according to plan, God willing, I will graduate in May, 2018. My topic is still in development and until it is approved I am hesitant to share, as it may very well change a few more times. But as soon as the approvals arrive, you will be some of the first to know!

Now the heart and soul of my study time: The focus this year was on leadership. I read books on being a leader in wilderness times (I shared some of those insights in the June *Connections*) as well as how to be a better pastoral leader. One book, *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership, Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry* by Ruth Haley Barton, spoke directly to what we are currently studying in our sermon series: Loving God with all of our soul, and loving our neighbor as our self. She uses the ministry of Moses as a starting point (wilderness images again!). The idea of loving God with all of our soul can begin with the question: Is it well with my soul? If it is not (part of loving yourself, but not to be confused with narcissism), then I cannot be the pastor and leader God is calling me to be. Nor can I love God with all of my soul.

Haley Barton begins her introduction with a question from Jesus: 'And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?' (Matt. 16:26) In talking about soul, she (and now I) mean the part of us that is 'most real—the very essence of you that God knew before He bought you forth in physical form, the part that will exist after your body goes into the ground. This is the "you" that exists beyond any role you play, any job you perform, any relationship that seems to define you, or any notoriety or success you have achieved. It is the part of you that longs for more of God than you have right now, the part that may, even now, be aware of "missing" God ...' (p. 13)

This book and my past 4 years of study, 3 of which have focused on spiritual direction, all point towards the transformation of the 'real' me/us in the presence of God. Transformation is an organic process, a journey, something that takes time, intention, attention, prayer and companionship in the midst of living, loving and leading. Transformation, says the author, 'goes far beyond mere behavior tweaks to work deep, fundamental changes at the very core of our being. In the process of transformation, the Spirit of God moves us from behaviors motivated by fear and self-protection to trust and abandonment to God; from selfishness and self-absorption to freely offering the gifts of the authentic self...' (p. 16) Who doesn't want that?!

So as I learn and grow in my own transformation process, the hope is that I will be able to come alongside you, through sermons, Bible study, one-on-one time, and companion with you in your process. Together, then, we can even more freely love God with all of our soul, strength, mind and heart, and our neighbors as ourselves.

In His service,
Deb

From the Trustees...

Statement of Income & Expense July 31, 2014

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Percent of Budget
Balance For-	\$28,020.00			
Income				
Pledge	175,325.00	102,373.00	72,952.00	58.4%
Non Pledge	24,000.00	17,422.45	6,577.55	72.6%
Investment In-	21,000.00	21,709.84	-709.84	103.4%
PerCapita	3,000.00	1,777.76	1,222.24	59.3%
Misc Income		1604.68		
Total Income	251,345.00	144,887.73	106,457.27	57.6%
Expenses				
Personnel	167,195.00	92,358.25	74,836.75	55.2%
Educational Min-	4,150.00	1,434.01	2,715.99	34.6%
Fellowship	1,550.00	454.29	1,095.71	29.3%
Deacons	750.00	362.96	387.04	48.4%
Property	73,000.00	45,224.95	27,775.05	62.0%
Worship	4,700.00	2,545.71	2,154.29	54.2%
Total Expenses	251,345.00	142,380.17	108,964.83	56.6%
Differential		2,507.56		
Est.Income Hanna	\$28,800.00	\$28,661.01	138.99	99.5%
Mission Budget	\$26,295.00	16,638.08	9,656.92	63.3%
Differential		12,022.93		

**Per Capita
Apportionment
for 2014 is \$34.02**



News-worthy Notes



Please give a huge ‘thank you!’ to **Bret Stensland** for all his hard work as our tech guy. He rarely seems to take a vacation, and when he does, we notice his absence! Bret volunteers countless hours to do the sound, the PowerPoint segments, the video clips and whatever else is needed for our worship experiences.



As we begin a new season in the life of our church family, the Hallelujah Handbells will once again be praising God and blessing us in worship. Please give a huge ‘thank you!’ to **Carol Brotherson**, the director, and her dedicated team of ringers. The musicians faithfully volunteer their time every week as they give of their talents to the glory of God.



A new school year has begun and we once again have the opportunity to provide food for some needy children in our community. Please give a huge ‘thank you!’ to **Mike Gorman** who is the coordinator of the Boomerang Backpacks, and his team of dedicated shoppers, **Linda Tickel, Sue Sattler, Sue Carter, Terri Huddleston.**

Fall Sermon Series: Neighbors in the Kingdom of God

Sept. 7 Kickoff Sunday: Communion; *Being Neighborly* from Luke 10:1-9; Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:16-20; international missionaries David & Sara Treece to share; special music by Jim French, Linda Hale and Heather Gadeau.

Sept. 14: *Neighbor John* from Luke 3:1-20; John 1:6-9, 15, 19-34.

Sept. 21: *Defining the Neighborhood* from Luke 17:20-21; Matthew 4:12-17; 6:9-10.

Sept. 28 4th Sunday: *Neighborhood Block Party* from Psalm 133; Luke 14:7-14.

Oct. 5 World Communion: *Kingdom of God Block Party* from Ecclesiastes 3:1-15; Luke 14:15-24.

Oct. 12: *Joy in the Kingdom of God Neighborhood* from Isaiah 25:6-9; John 2:1-11.

Oct. 19: ‘*Greatest*’ of *Neighbors* from Proverbs 2:1-11; Matthew 18:1-5.

Oct. 26 4th Sunday & Reformation Sunday: *Neighbor at the Well* from John 4:1-42.

Nov. 2 Stewardship/All Saints: Communion; *Rich Neighbor* from Psalm 119:33-40; Luke 18:18-30.

Nov. 9: *Needy Neighbor* from Isaiah 63:7-9; Luke 5:17-26.

Nov. 16: *Thankful Neighbor* from Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26; Luke 17:11-19.

Nov. 23 4th Sunday: *Ultimate Neighbor* from Psalm 97; John 18:33-37.

Nov. 30 1st Sunday of Advent: *Neighbors Zechariah & Elizabeth* from Luke 1:1-17, 18-25.

Dec. 7 2nd Sunday of Advent/Communion: *Neighbor Joseph* from Isaiah 11:1-9; Matthew 1:18-25.

Dec. 14 3rd Sunday of Advent: *Neighbor Mary* from Luke 1:26-38; 39-45.

Dec. 21 4th Sunday of Advent: *Kingdom of God Songs* from Luke 1:46-55; Luke 1:67-79.

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve: *Moving into the Neighborhood* from John 1:1-14; Luke 2:1-7.

Changes for the upcoming choir...by Millie Comiskey, FPC Choir Director

Several of our choir members met after church on Sunday Aug. 17th to discuss the future of the choir at FPC. Those who could not attend were given the chance to submit a written statement about their feelings for the upcoming year. A LOT was discussed at this meeting and it was decided that while the choir loves to sing, we want to be a choir, not a small group. We are currently taking a survey of choir members to figure out which Sundays we will have enough singers (similar to what the bells do to find performance dates). How often we will sing will depend on everyone's availability.

Due to not having a rehearsal accompanist for Wednesday nights and the fact that we are figuring out choir dates by availability it was determined the best rehearsal schedule at this time is to rehearse on the Sundays we sing from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Many choir members expressed a reluctance to forgo Wednesday night rehearsals, however after much discussion it was felt this was the best choice for now. If you enjoy singing and haven't been joining us due to the Wednesday night rehearsal time commitment, we'd love to have you! We will be letting everyone know which Sundays we plan to sing as soon as it's decided. If you want to join us any Sunday that the choir is singing, simply show up by 8:30 that Sunday! If you'd like to regularly sing and did not get a survey, please let me know or ask the office and we can include your input!

Thank you for supporting your choir at FPC. Whether you are a singer, or just enjoy our music when we sing, it is a pleasure to worship with you at First Presbyterian.

Paint-A-Thon 2014...by Julie Schulthies, Mission Committee Moderator

Partners are Two Rivers Bank and Trust, Diamond Vogel Paint, & Community Action of Southeast Iowa.

The First Presbyterian Church painting volunteers are teamed up with the North Hill group and we will be painting a house at 1032 Short Street. The painting will begin on Tuesday, September 2nd at 8:00 a.m. We will be painting throughout the week day and/or evening - whatever fits your schedule. There is a good possibility that the painting may be completed before Saturday. There will be a team picture on Saturday morning. Everyone who volunteers is invited to enjoy a picnic at the Eagles Club from 11:00 - 1:00 on Saturday, September 6th.

The paint is provided but not the brushes or other painting supplies. If you have extra brushes, buckets or containers to hold paint, old rags etc., please bring them along.

Special thanks to Bill Carter who will be power washing the house ahead of time. Many thanks to Bonnie White for heading up this community project.

Presbyterian Private Painting Project

Are you getting ready, all you Rembrandts? It's fast approaching time to paint. As we've told you in recent weeks, there are two great opportunities to love your neighbor coming soon.

- The first is our traditional FPC Paint-a-thon house for the 22nd consecutive year. (see above article)
- Second is our brand new masterpiece already underway at 1223 Oak Street. The **Presbyterian Private Painting Project** has its upper story already completed by Mike Nielsen. The lower story awaits all of us from FPC to finish...along with any friends or family you'd like to invite along! Drive by sometime & see how good it's already looking. We'll take on our part a week or two after completion of the above-mentioned Paint-a-thon home. Stay tuned for those days and times. Please contact either Mike Gorman or Curtis Blom with any questions.

By Barbara & Curtis Blom



Staff Reports July 2014 Pastor Deb Kinney

<p>Worship 2 worship services 1 funeral, graveside</p> <p>Educational 4 Bible studies</p> <p>Connections 16 Connections 4 hospital/home visits</p> <p>Church Meetings Staff</p>	<p>Presbytery Moderate Mediapolis Session Work on CPM issues (moderator)</p> <p>Other <i>Connections</i> Separate meetings with staff (3)</p> <p>Study Leave: 1 week Vacation: 2 weeks, 2 Sundays</p>
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Dir. Of Educational Ministries July, 2014 Tammy Hulett

<p>Worship Young Disciples (3)</p> <p>Church Meetings & Events Meetings with Pastor (2) Working in KidZone (3) Bible Study (3)</p>	<p>Contacts Phone-calls and e-mails: 30+</p> <p>Education Children's Sermon Prep (4) KidZone Prep (4)</p> <p>Other <i>Connections</i> articles Working on fall programs</p>
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 1 Office Closed for Labor Day LABOR Day	2 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting Paint-A-Thon Begins	3 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:45 AM PW	4	5	6 Paint-A-Thon Picnic	
7 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Kick-Off Spaghetti Dinner with Treeces'	8 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	9 5:00 PM Trustees Meeting	10 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Knitwits 6:00 PM Handbells	11	12 7:00 PM Moms Group	13
14 10:00 AM Worship	15 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Session Meeting	16	17 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Handbells	18 1:30 PM Hope Haven Birthday Party 6:00 PM Yum Yum Group	19	20
21 10:00 AM Worship	22 Connections Deadline 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Mission Committee	23	24 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Handbells	25	26 7:00 PM Moms Group	27
28 10:00 AM Worship 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM 4th Sunday Potluck	29 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	30 5:00 PM Worship Committee				

Church Happenings

PW News



**September 3, 2014
at 9:45 a.m.**

Co-Hostesses: Joan Hertzler @ church
Marilyn Malcom

Study Leader: Eva Ann Elmer

Mission: CCC (Come to Church With a Can)

COME TO CHURCH WITH A CAN

CCC goal is 1200 cans for 2014.
802 cans have been donated this year.



The Yum Yum's will make the trip to Little Mexico for our September outing. It is located in Mt. Pleasant on the west side of the square, in the middle of the block. The date is Sept. 18 and the time is 6 p.m. To carpool, please meet at Fareway Food Store at 5:30. Reservations are not required, but so we have an idea, please call **Bonnie White** at 752-1244 or **Sue Carter** at 753-0683.

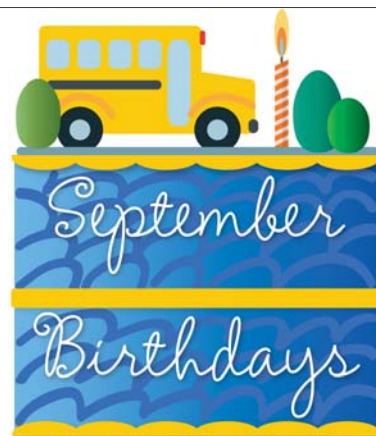
Each gift placed in the Treasure Chest will make the day brighter for our friends in 3JC at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital. A special thanks to our church family for your gifts.

Blessings,
Janet Calvin

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM: Charles Bell, Carol Brotherson, Vickie Carhoff, Dick Fischer, Jim French, Marilyn Nuss, Julie Schulthies, Deb Scott, Bonnie White, ruling elders. Ted Francis, Clerk.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM: Nancy Beetner, Rex Beetner, (moderator), Cathy Brink, Adele Coulter, (secretary) Kevin Eibes, Ruth Francis, Barb Garcia, (vice moderator) Sandy Russell, Pat Saldeen, Jay & Jolene Schafer & Sandy Smith.

GOD'S STEWARDS TEAM: Connie Bowen (Secretary), Larry Lazenby, Francis McAllister, (Treasurer), Jean Miller (Vice President), Kel Stensland (President).



September 1.....	Bob Bowen
.....	Ava Sue Kinney
.....	Heidi Van Winkle
September 2.....	Debbie Opiekun
September 3	Jim French
September 4.....	D'Lissa Scott
September 5.....	Gabby Hall
September 6.....	Marilyn Leight
September 8.....	Buck Jones
September 10.....	Ella Jo Schneden
September 17.....	Penny Rucker
September 22.....	Ed Whitmore
September 26.....	Donna Siefken
September 27.....	Janel Baker