

Lenten Special Presentation:

“The Fourteen Stations of the Cross”

A multi-media experience combining poetry, music and art, will be presented Sunday, **March 22** at 4 p.m. at the church. Karen Dewey will read the cycle of poetry written by Paul Claudel for which the program gets its title, and the Rev'd Webster will be playing the music. Everyone is invited to attend.

Holy Week at FPC

March 29, **Passion/Palm Sunday** Special music: Hallelujah Handbells

9 a.m. Donkey Walk on Snake Alley

No Godly Play, No Carter Group

9-9:45 a.m. Pancake Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

10 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary

March 30, *The Ten Commandments* (1st half) 7 p.m. in Chapel

March 31, *The Ten Commandments* (2nd half) 7 p.m. in Chapel

April 1, **Service of Darkness 7 p.m. in Chapel**

April 2, **Maundy Thursday Service 7 p.m. in Chapel** Communion by intinction

April 3, **Good Friday Service 7 p.m. in Chapel**

April 4, **Easter Vigil 7 p.m. in Chapel**

Easter Sunday

April 5

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

At home of Bill & Sue Carter

500 Washington Road,

West Burlington

Continental breakfast following

10 a.m. Worship Service

Special music

Sanctuary

No Godly Play

No Carter Small Group

Glimpses of God's Grace

Dear church family,

Lent has been a journey for us as we have made our way from Ash Wednesday and the reminder that 'we are dust and to dust we shall return' to the glory of Easter Sunday and the reminder that thanks to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, our lives can be transformed by the One Who is the Way, the Truth and Life Himself.

Our lives are also a journey, as we seek to obey God, live our lives of love and discipleship for Him and our neighbors, and allow Him to transform us evermore into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. One of the great reminders for me of this came during the Lenten Retreat in early March during which the Rev'd Randy Webster shared a poem by Susan Palo Cherwein called *Return*. In this poem she reminds us: 'Lent is a journey, from the known to the unknown and back. From the comfortable and safe to the new and threatening and back. All of these are journeys of transformation. We will not emerge as the same people who entered. All of these are journeys of Becoming—we will pass through the waters, through the fire and step out transformed, radiant, new.'

During the discussion of this poem, one participant noted that we are not the same people we were last year or five years ago. And that is true! Each time we have an encounter with the Living God, which can be daily through our times of prayer, our times of loving service, our times of fellowship, or which can be weekly through our times of worship, our times of fellowship, our times of prayer, we are changed. One cannot encounter the Divine without something happening to us spiritually. However, most times it is in such small increments that it may be barely noticeable to anyone other than God. Just like our growth and our decay often happen slowly, so too does our spiritual transformation. But it is happening as we seek and submit to God's loving will as His beloved children.

As we complete our Lenten journey we begin our Holy Week journey to Easter, beginning with Palm Sunday and culminating with Easter Sunday. I hope you make it a point to NOT skip from the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to the joyful celebration of His resurrection. As the poem noted and as life reveals, we do need to pass through the waters, through the fires that are a part of life, in order for transformation to happen. There are good times and awful times, there are joyful seasons and seasons of heartache in every life, including the life of God's Beloved Son.

Holy Week, beginning with a viewing of the *10 Commandments* on Monday and Tuesday evening, continuing with a Service of Darkness on Wednesday and Maundy Thursday, where we are reminded of the Last Supper and Jesus washing the disciples' feet, and Good Friday where we are reminded of the incredible, horrible sacrifice Jesus made for you and for me, and the Easter Vigil, which reminds us of hopeful waiting and watching, provides us a time to linger on this journey and reflect on how much God does love us, no matter what part of the journey we are on.

I encourage you to join us for one or more of these services. You will not emerge from Holy Week as the same people who began it. Christ beckons us to come on this journey of transformation as we encounter the Divine Lover of our souls yet again.

In His service,

Deb

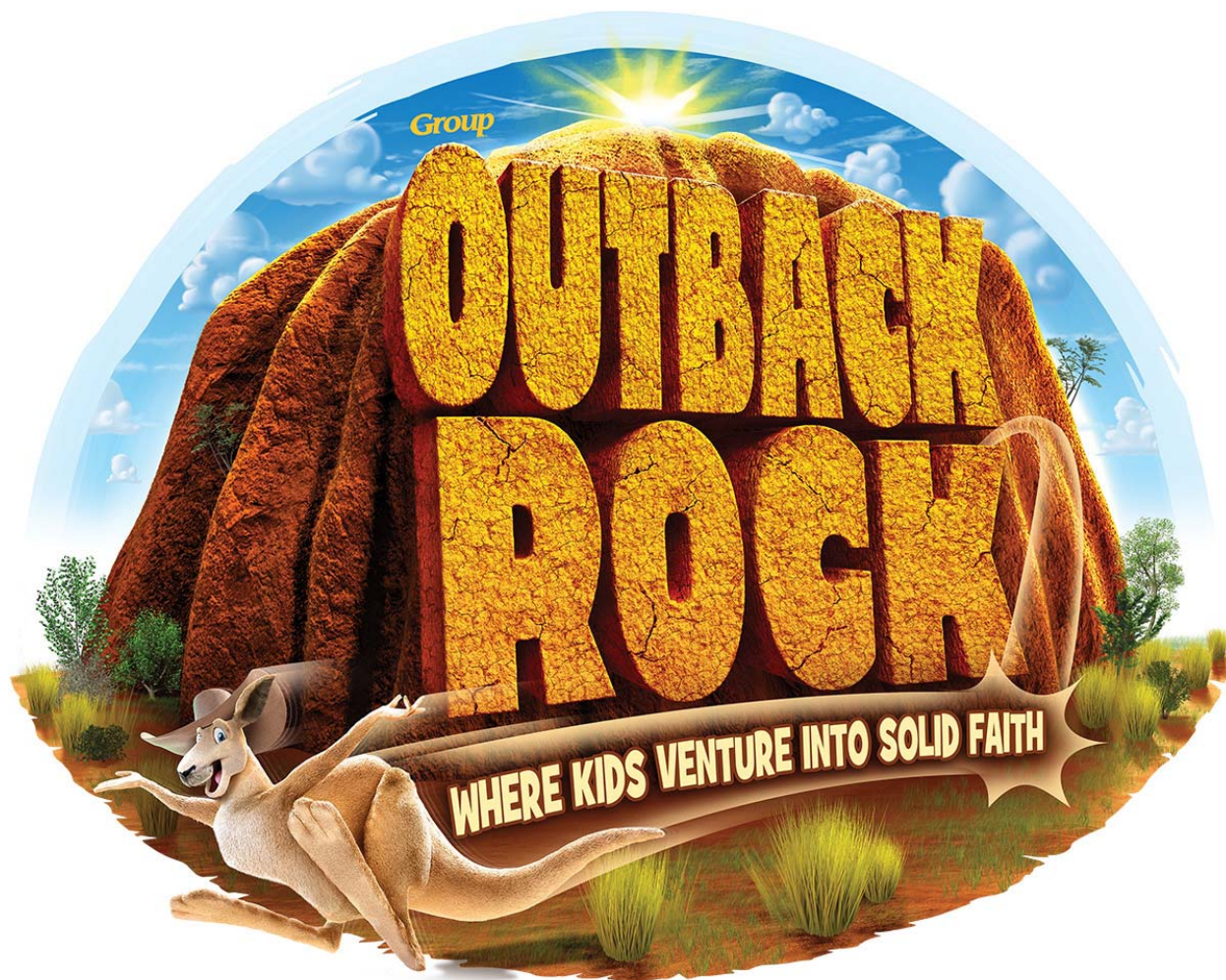
Trustee Report

Statement of Income & Expense February 28, 2015

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Percent of Budget
Balance Forward	\$16,678.00			
Income	\$11,000.00			
Pledge	168,558.00	28,877.50	139,680.50	17.1%
Non Pledge	24,000.00	9,094.04	14,905.96	37.9%
Investment Income	18,027.00	19,783.65	-1,756.65	109.7%
PerCapita	3,000.00	691.24	2,308.76	23.0%
Misc Income		837.89		
Total Income	241,263.00	59,284.32	181,978.68	24.6%
Expenses				
Personnel	179,160.00	26,864.18	152,295.82	15.0%
Educational Ministries	2,650.00	242.01	2,407.99	9.1%
Fellowship	1,350.00	294.44	1,055.56	21.8%
Deacons	750.00	13.78	736.22	1.8%
Property	61,330.00	12,946.77	48,383.23	21.1%
Worship	3,150.00	466.85	2,683.15	14.8%
Total Expenses	248,390.00	40,828.03	207,561.97	16.4%
Differential		18,456.29		
Estimated Income Hanna	\$31,540.00	\$10,844.75	20,695.25	34.4%
Mission Budget	\$26,295.00	3,441.83	22,853.17	13.1%
Differential		7,402.92		

**Per Capita
Apportionment
for 2015 is \$34.27**

News from Tammy



Our theme for VBS this year is Outback Rock – helping kids venture into solid faith. At Outback Rock, kids will imagine that they’re exploring the awesome Australian outback filled with kangaroos, wilderness and fun! Children won’t just hear about God’s love, they will see it, touch it, taste it and put it into action. So mark your calendars now! The dates will be June 26, 27 and 28.



A reminder for all members: If you or a loved one is in the hospital please advise the office or Deb when the office is closed at 319-750-6216. We do call the hospital but sometimes are unable to get up-to-the-minute information, so please let us know.

There are several platters, plates and bowls piling up in the kitchen. Please check to see if any of them belong to you so they can go home.

There are also some jackets and shoes on the coat rack that need to find their owners, please take a look when you are in Fellowship Hall. Thank you.

Reflections from Rev'd Randy Webster

As a young organ major in undergraduate school, I remember vividly the day when my teacher explained to me how we as organists make notes receive more emphasis. Unlike playing the piano, you cannot hit the keys any harder and receive any results. While we may maneuver the instrument mechanically through the use of swell shades (those louvered doors on the front of the organ case which work much like Venetian blinds), or by the adding or subtracting of stops, the way we make one note distinct from another, or more dramatic than another has little to do with the actual playing of the note itself. It has, rather, everything to do with the silence that precedes the note (and sometimes which also follows it.)



For example, if I play several notes in a row that are the same pitch, using the same pipe, how does your ear tell you that the notes are different? It is the same pipe receiving a stream of air through it. The sole way that you can tell one note from another is the amount of silence that separates one from another. In order for one note to have more emphasis than those around it, it has to have a bigger silence preceding it.

That phenomena is much like our own spiritual lives. At our major celebrations, and the upcoming Easter celebration is the best example, we cannot possibly experience the “sound” of the Easter notes without the silence that comes before it. Can you actually experience a beautiful dawn without the darkness of night that precedes it? Is a special meal really special if all of our meals are feasts? I think not.

The Church is on the threshold of the yearly journey through the darkness. I do not believe that the glorious splendor of Easter is really all that glorious if we have not also entered into the dark silence of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday, the “Great Triduum.” There are programs and services at First Presbyterian Church every night of Holy Week. Each one is different from the other; some have movies, some have poetry, some artwork, many contain singing in one of many different forms— no two are alike. They have been planned so that your own journey through the darkness of Holy Week might speak to each of you in your own way. I cannot urge you enough to try and make a very special effort to attend as many of them as you can. Each of us needs to put away some of our individual “busyness” and center ourselves in the quiet of the chapel during this very special and important time for us as Christians.

Lastly, let me urge you to attend the Great Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4. It is here that Easter really begins when, after hearing our “story” as a people of faith, and renewing our own vows made at our Baptisms, we hear “Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!” And the church is suddenly transformed into Easter. It is here in the first service of Easter that “Easter really happens,” not on Sunday morning.

Come and join with us as we make our journey through the darkness, that we might truly see how gentle is the Lamb, and exclaim in unbridled joy “The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia, Alleluia!”

Faithfully,
Randy+

Flowers of Tomorrow...by Carol Brotherson

As winter nears its end, many of us are looking forward to spring and summer. If you're a gardener, perhaps you have already begun to plan your gardens. The Worship Committee invites you to consider planting some flowers that could be cut and used in floral arrangements for worship services. We'll have people who can arrange the flowers, if desired. The beauty of fresh flowers is surely testament to God's good works and glory! So dream big of warmer days and let us know this summer when you have "fruits (flowers) of your labor" to share. Thank you!



Earth Day & Dirty Hands & Because We Care

It's always nice to be asked; it's always nice to be 'recognized'. And while that is **not** why we do what we do, when it happens, it's nice.

Randy Miller, city editor of *The Hawk Eye* newspaper approached Ed Whitmore recently and asked if our 'Dirty Hands' group would consider joining the Earth Day Cleanup sponsored by the Keep Burlington Beautiful Committee. Our Dirty Hands teams have begun to be 'recognized' for the work being done in and around the greater Burlington area through word of mouth and through articles/photos in the newspaper. Again, this is **not** why we love our neighbors, but when others notice, it's nice.



Dirty Hands Ministry

Of course, the Missions Committee gave a resounding 'yes!' Over the years our Dirty Hands/Clean Hands 5th Sunday projects have taken us to Aldo Leopold Middle School's wilderness area, to South Hill and North Hill neighbors, to the fire and police departments, to the Homeless Shelter, to the Salvation Army, to name a few. And while April 18 is not a 5th Sunday, we will be getting our hands dirty picking up litter and trash from public places in our community. Because the event is open to all ages, we will also be able to have our youth and children join in getting their hands dirty. The Clean Hands group will be preparing a meal for our local firefighters, also on April 18.

But that is not all! For the past several years, Carl Boley has tried to have the **Because We Care Road Clean-up** on Earth Day as well. Carl knows that Earth Day is intended to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the Earth's environment. It's also very biblical. In Genesis 2, God took Adam and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Part of our call as Christians is to work the land and be good stewards of it. We are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of God's creation. That is why on Sunday, April 19 we will be celebrating God's creation and our part in it.

So, we are joining forces to clean up our roads and other areas in the community. Those who are over the age of 14 and would like to join the road clean-up, you will be asked to sign up in Fellowship Hall and plan to meet at 9 a.m. at the Nazarene Church parking lot. The rain date will be the following Saturday. Those who would like to join forces with the official Earth Day crew are asked to meet at the Port of Burlington, 400 Front Street at 8:30 a.m., for registration and assignments. Clean-up is until 11 a.m. and then a free lunch will be served at the Port for all Earth Day/Because We Care workers. We encourage you to wear your FPC T-shirts to both clean-ups.

Mission Report...by Mike Gorman

CCC - Our food donations to the Community Action Neighborhood Center have reached 147 items to date this year. The church members continued support is greatly appreciated by those in need throughout our local community.

Easter Baskets - The Mission Committee wants to deliver Easter boxes of food to 19 families this year. We would like your help in making this happen. There is a place on the sign-up table in the Fellowship Hall where you can pick up one or more tags as reminders of the canned food you plan to purchase and place on the stage in Fellowship Hall. Monetary donations for perishable food items to be delivered by Hy-Vee are also welcomed. These donations can be placed in an envelope marked "Easter Baskets" and put in the offering plate on Sunday or brought to the church office. Please have all food and donations at the church by Wednesday, March 25th. Thank you for your help and support.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:45 AM PW 6:00 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Service of Darkness in Chapel	2 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service in Chapel	3 7:00 PM Good Friday Service in Chapel	4 7:00 PM Easter Vigil in Chapel
5 6:30 AM Easter Sunrise Service 8:30 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship	6 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Trustees Meeting	7	8 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Knitwits 6:00 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Mission Committee	9	10 7:00 PM Moms Group	11
12 8:30 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship	13 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	14 5:30 PM EMT Meeting	15 Connections Deadline 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Handbells	16 1:30 PM Hope Haven Birthday Party 6:00 PM Yum Yum Group	17	18 8:30 AM Earth Day Clean-up 9:00 AM Road Clean -up
19 8:30 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship/ Youth Sunday	20 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	21 6:00 PM Deacons Meeting	22 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Handbells	23	24 7:00 PM Moms Group	25
26 8:30 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship/Handbells 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM 4th Sunday Potluck	27 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	28 5:30 PM Worship Committee	29 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	30	1	2

Staff Reports

February, 2015

Pastor Deb Kinney

Worship 2 worship services 1 funeral	Church Activities/Events I Attended Morning Prayer Nominating Knitwits
Education 4 Bible study groups	Other 1 Spiritual direction session <i>Connections</i> work Lenten planning Separate meetings with staff (5)
Connections 17 Drop-ins/appointments/calls 1 home/hospital/prison visit 39 cards sent	
Church Meetings Staff (4)	Vacation 2 Sundays, 1 week

Dir. Of Educational Ministries

February, 2015

Tammy Hulett

Worship Young Disciples (4) Ash Wednesday Service	Education Children's Sermon Prep (4) KidZone Prep (4) Taught Godly Play (1)
Church Meetings & Events Meetings with Pastor (3) Working in KidZone (4) Bible Study (2) 4 th Sunday Potluck EMT Meeting	Other <i>Connections</i> articles Working on KidZone activities Working on new Youth Sunday Working on Curriculum Working on VBS material
Contacts Phone-calls and e-mails: 30+	

Minister of Faith & Worship

February, 2015

Rev'd Randy Webster

Sunday Worship services (4) Ash Wednesday service Morning Prayer (7) Funeral (Jane Snider) Music at Midday (1) Staff meetings (3)	Worship planning and consultation with the Pastor Prepare chapel for Ash Wednesday service Lent planning Retreat planning Private practice Connections submissions
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Church Happenings

PW News



April 1, 2015
At 9:45 a.m.

Co-Hostesses: Marilyn Nuss @ Church
 Janet Calvin
Study Leader: Marilyn Leight
Mission: Toys for the Treasure Chest

Yum Yums will meet at Gators at 6:00 p.m. for the April 16 get-together. Everyone is invited to come.

Call Bonnie White or Sue Carter for more information.



The birthday party was a success -----lots of good food, fellowship and a great DVD on prayer after lunch.

The Treasure Chest was full and the silver box contained monetary gifts to purchase more gifts to be sent to the cancer unit. Thank you all for your generosity.

I also want to thank Tammy and our youth for their song of praise and helping with our worship service. Good job!

Blessings

Janet Calvin

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM: Charles Bell, Carol Brotherson, Vickie Carhoff, Dick Fischer, Jim French, Steve Hemphill, Marilyn Nuss, Julie Schulthies, 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 Schaffer & Sandy Smith.

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

To the Session,
 Thank you for allowing Ritzana Seaton, AARP representative, to use our Fellowship Hall to do taxes for seniors in March. She appreciated the use of our building.

Sandy Russell

Dear Church Family,
 We would like to thank the following people:

Rev. Deb Kinney & Steve Parker for the beautiful memorial service, Presbyterian Women for the cookies and coffee reception, and everyone who sent prayers, cards & memorials.

Thank you for everything.

Bob & Dick Snider

A big Thank You to all who came to the Birthday Party and gave a gift or money to the Treasure Chest.

Thanks also to the Fellowship Committee, Sue Carter, Sandy Smith & Terri Huddleston, for the last three years of participation on the committee. Great job!

Bonnie White

Moderator



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 2,
 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Samer Salama will share about the Egyptian Coptics their faith traditions. Dessert will follow.

April 1	Janice Kemp
April 3	Nick Logan
.....	Tom Russell
.....	Julie Schulthies
April 4	Dal Thompson
April 6	Claudine Capps
.....	Sundi Simpson
April 10	Charles Hanson
April 12	Harrison Murray
April 13	Charles Bell
.....	Ted Francis
April 16	Sally Bell
April 18	Scott Eibes
April 19	Joe Sattler
April 23	Lola Eberhard
.....	Tosh Velharticky
.....	Chandler Yarber
April 24	Bruce Morrison
April 25	Pat Saldeen
.....	Ruth DeGrange
April 28	Nancy Lazenby
April 29	Christine Stensland

First Presbyterian Church
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Burlington, IA 52601