

## VBS 2015



# Glimpses of God's Grace

Dear church family,

We are in the middle of a series of sermons on radical hospitality and what it means to not only love our neighbors as well as we love ourselves, but also to love and welcome the 'alien', the 'stranger', the 'foreigner', the 'one who is different'. As we look at Old Testament passages that command caring for one's Jewish neighbors as well as the non-Jewish residents, we are reminded that loving care for others is a top priority of God. One might assume that God's concern was primarily for His chosen people, but Scripture shows that Jesus in the New Testament is not the first to command we love more than just our close friends and family. In Leviticus 19, God commands: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord. Keep My decrees.' (vs. 18b-19a) and, 'The alien (stranger) living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself...' (vs. 34)

One commentator wrote of this text that love of neighbor is 'commitment to the welfare and best interests of another', whether a fellow citizen or foreigner. We try to do that through some of our ministries, like those who avail themselves of Community Action, the Homeless Shelter, the Salvation Army and the Boomerang Backpacks, the recipients of our painting efforts through the Paint-a-thon and the two-story homes, as well as our homebound members, our international missionaries the Treece family, our summer missionaries Justin Randall and Devin Combs, the recipients of the Treasure Chest goodies, our local police officers, and firefighters, to name just a few.

Sometimes we know our neighbors' names and sometimes we do not. That is one reason we are opening our doors on Sunday morning to host free breakfasts. What better way to get to know someone than during a time of feasting around the table together? What better way to forge a 'commitment to the welfare and best interests' of another than having a meal and conversation together? And, what better way to invite someone new into our church family than through good, free!, food and fellowship?

In his sermon in July, the Rev'd Randy Webster noted that in the beginning 'hospitality' was another word for entertaining strangers, not hosting family and friends at a dinner party. Hospitality was caring for those who could not necessarily return the favor. Hospitality was caring for others just as well as we would like to be cared for, if we were strangers.

Looking at Scripture, it seems that is what God is calling us to do: Welcome and entertain strangers just like we would like to be welcomed and entertained! That is why we are enlarging the former Fellowship Committee to now be the Radical Hospitality Committee. Moderated by Elder Camille Reynen, its task is to discover how and then implement ways we can even better fulfill God's command to love and welcome our neighbor **and** the stranger in our midst. Stay tuned!

In His service,  
Deb

# Trustee Report

## Statement of Income & Expense June 30, 2015

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Percent of Budget
<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>\$16,678.00</b>			
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$11,000.00</b>			
Pledge	168,558.00	84,343.50	84,214.50	50.0%
Non Pledge	24,000.00	19,831.03	4,168.97	82.6%
Investment In- come	18,027.00	19,814.82	-1,787.82	109.9%
PerCapita	3,000.00	2,053.72	946.28	68.5%
Misc Income		1071.76		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>241,263.00</b>	<b>127,114.83</b>	<b>114,148.17</b>	<b>52.7%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Personnel	179,160.00	89,065.48	90,094.52	49.7%
Youth Ministries	2,650.00	1,063.29	1,586.71	40.1%
Fellowship	1,350.00	951.64	398.36	70.5%
Deacons	750.00	233.38	516.62	31.1%
Property	61,330.00	29,520.99	31,809.01	48.1%
Worship	3,150.00	1,646.15	1,503.85	52.3%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>248,390.00</b>	<b>122,480.93</b>	<b>125,909.07</b>	<b>49.3%</b>
<b>Differential</b>		<b>4,633.90</b>		
Estimated Income Hanna	\$31,540.00	\$18,813.96	12,726.04	59.7%
Mission Budget	\$26,295.00	11,515.69	14,779.31	43.8%
<b>Differential</b>		<b>7,298.27</b>		

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

## Reflections from Rev'd Randy Webster

One of my favorite pastimes is to do research on my genealogy and to learn the stories of my family's past. As I was cleaning our front parlor recently I cleaned the framed sheepskin that I have which was presented to William McClelland, my great-great grandfather, by Dunboe Presbyterian Church in Ireland where he served as the musician on the eve of his departure for America. William, along with his wife and children, came to Lime Creek Township in Washington County, Iowa in the summer of 1888. I've often wondered how it must've felt for the family to move so far away from home, to be foreigners, and to become residents of a new place.



Their story is not unlike many of the stories of the Hebrew Scriptures, beginning with Abraham who moved from Ur to this new place that God called him to. His grandson Jacob would move to Egypt and the Hebrew people would become aliens in a foreign land. When the Exodus happened and God brought the people back an admonition was recorded: *The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 19:34).*

Alien is not a word I'm comfortable with, probably because of its connections to sci-fi movies about scary extra-terrestrials. It's an old word in the English language, probably from at least 1400, from the Latin word meaning "other" or "another." The best word to use in its place is perhaps "foreigner."

Showing hospitality to strangers is a central tenant of Hebrew scripture, and later in the church's writings the writer of the epistle to the Hebrews reminds us to *be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware.*

During my eleven years as a "foreigner" in the state of New Jersey the events of September 11 happened. We watched, from the front steps of our home, the twin towers of the World Trade Center fall. Later that afternoon, about four, a taxi pulled up in front of our home and three strangers got out. All of the airports had been closed and hundreds of thousands of people left stranded. They asked us if they could stay in the back pews of the church. We responded no, but they could find lodging in our home. We kept three young people safe until we could get them on their way safely, in some cases taking several weeks. The first was Clementine, a 21-year-old French woman who took the train to Ottawa to get back to Paris. And David, a 33-year-old Muslim who stayed with us until we could get him home to Los Angeles. And lastly, Abdul, a 23-year-old Muslim from Delhi who was here on a selling trip for his father's rug-making business. Abdul continues to call us regularly, and has told us many times that, had the situation been reversed, his father would've closed the door on us. Our lives were forever changed by an act of hospitality to three strangers who would become family.

The challenge to each of us is to always remember that our vocation is to show hospitality to strangers because we were all strangers in this journey of life before we became citizens.

Warmly,  
Randy+



## Worship Schedule

**July 26:** Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.; *Radical Hospitality 5* from 1 Peter 4:8-11

**Aug. 2:** Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.; Communion & summer choir; *Radical Hospitality 6* from Acts 6:1-7; worship in Fellowship Hall

**Aug. 9:** Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.; *Radical Hospitality 7* from John 2:1-11

**Aug. 16:** Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.; Youth Sunday; *Radical Hospitality 8* from 1 Kings 17:7-16

**Aug. 23:** Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.; *Radical Hospitality 9* from Romans 12:1-21

**Aug. 30:** Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.; 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday; *Radical Hospitality 10* from John 21:1-17

**Sept. 6:** Final breakfast at 8:30 a.m.; *Radical Hospitality 11* from Isaiah 25:6-9 and Luke 14:7-14

## Officer Training

Our Elders, Trustees, Deacons and staff will be part of an innovative workshop focusing upon leaders who “help the disciples in their midst discover and claim their callings” during part of this year’s Officers’ Training on Saturday, Aug. 22.

Workshop leader, Dr. Rebecca Blair, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of East Iowa, said “A Match Made in Heaven: Volunteers as Servant Leaders within Covenant Community,” underscores the idea that those who take up tasks — those whom we might call “volunteers” — are not volunteers at all. Instead, she believes leaders’ primary responsibility is to equip and enable the disciples who labor within the church.



CHURCH  
OFFICER  
TRAINING

Anyone in the congregation who is interested in attending this workshop with the officers is welcome. Please let the church office know of your interest by Aug. 13. The officers will attend the workshop from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and then break into their respective board meetings for the final segment of time together.

## A Poem...by Christine Dwight

Shake off the cobweb of your faith, dust off the Book divine.  
Unlock the door to your heart, let go of the anger that keeps you restrained.  
You are a prisoner of your own will, uncross your arms from your chest.  
Allow love to come to stay.  
No smile from anger; no joy from a frown.  
Alone is what you will be when anger comes to stay.  
When God forgave, He was more thorough than we are.

# Minute for Mission

***Dirty Hands/Clean Hands Day!***...by Julie Schulthies, Moderator

**A great mission work opportunity and fun fellowship for all!**

**Mark your calendars. Sunday, August 30th is our next Fifth Sunday.**

We will have at least one outdoor project cleaning up brush and weeds and trimming bushes etc...for the South Hill Association. If enough people signed up to help, we may be able to have two work sites going.

If you would like to participate in the Clean Hands Project, we will be fixing a meal for the Fire Departments.

More information and reminders will be given on Sundays.

## ***Clean Hands Ministry at Work***

Time, energy and helping hands made our dinner for the Salvation Army on Sunday, June 28th a success. Twenty-one members of our congregation contributed in organizing, cooking, serving and cleaning up. Whatever our God-given talents, by working together we are able to spread His love to one another.

## ***Come to Church with a Can***



"Come to Church with a Can" (CCC) is a very important mission that our church members support throughout the year. The food donations are greatly appreciated by the Neighborhood Community Action Center. There is still much need in our city during the summer as well as during the school year. We continue to work toward our goal of 1,200 food items for the year, and as of the end of June we had donated 398 items. Thank you for your continued support.

# Cruising 4 Christ Road Trip!

Back by popular demand: C4C's annual ride to Hotel Nauvoo for lunch. Everyone is invited to join us on **Sunday, July 26** at around 11:15 a.m. We will gather at Memorial Auditorium Parking Lot and then drive, ride, carpool our way to Nauvoo. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the church office, so we know how many reservations to make.

C4C is a Mariners'-sponsored group for anyone who rides motorcycles, drives classic cars, unusual vehicles, or their 'ol' jalopy' and would like to journey together. The C4C rides are not exclusive and anyone who would like to join in the ride, or meet at the final destination is welcome.

<b>Staff Reports</b>	June, 2015	Pastor Deb Kinney
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<p>Worship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 worship services</li> <li>1 wedding</li> </ul> <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 Bible study groups</li> <li>2 DVD study groups</li> </ul> <p>Connections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19 Drop-ins/appointments/calls</li> <li>2 home/hospital/prison visits</li> <li>32 cards sent</li> </ul> <p>Church Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trustees</li> <li>Worship</li> <li>Staff (4)</li> <li>Session</li> <li>Mission</li> <li>Mariners planning</li> <li>Elder training</li> <li>Deacon training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trustee training</li> </ul> <p>Church Activities/Events I Attended</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knitwits</li> <li>Wedding Shower for deKlerks</li> <li>New member reception for Youngs</li> <li>2 Sunday breakfasts</li> <li>1 graduation party</li> <li>Vacation Bible school (preschoolers)</li> </ul> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 premarital counseling</li> <li>1 Spiritual direction session</li> <li><i>Connections</i> work</li> <li>VBS prep</li> <li>Separate meetings with staff (14)</li> </ul> <p>Vacation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 work days</li> </ul>
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<b>Dir. Of Youth Ministries</b>	June, 2015	Tammy Hulett
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<p>Worship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young Disciples (3)</li> <li>VBS Sunday</li> <li>Youth Sunday(1)</li> </ul> <p>Church Meetings &amp; Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings with Pastor (3)</li> <li>Working in KidZone (3)</li> <li>Bible Study (4)</li> <li>Bridal Shower after worship</li> <li>Sunday morning breakfast (3)</li> <li>Youth Ministries Committee Meeting</li> <li>Vacation Bible School</li> </ul>	<p>Contacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phone-calls and e-mails: 60+</li> </ul> <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's Message Prep (2)</li> <li>KidZone Prep (3)</li> </ul> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Connections</i> articles</li> <li>Worked on KidZone activities</li> <li>Worked with kids for Youth Sunday</li> <li>Worked on VBS prep</li> </ul>
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<b>Minister of Faith &amp; Worship</b>	June, 2015	Rev'd Randy Webster
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday Worship services (4)</li> <li>Wedding and rehearsal</li> <li>Staff meetings (4)</li> <li>Session meeting</li> <li>Worship Committee meeting</li> <li>Mission Committee meeting</li> <li>Yum-Yums</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worship planning and consultation w/ the Pastor</li> <li>Summer breakfast (2)</li> <li>Summer retreat planning</li> <li>Program planning 2015-2016</li> <li>Private practice and soloist rehearsals</li> <li>Connections submissions</li> </ul>
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# Church Happenings

## PW News



### Presbyterian Women

Will not meet in the summer months.  
Meetings will resume in September.

On Thursday, August 20, **Yum Yums** will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Fareway parking lot to carpool to Choung's Garden in Fort Madison. All are welcome. Please call Bonnie White at 752-1244 or Sue Carter at 753-0683 for more information and to make reservations.



## Thanks, Bill Carter!

If you attended the Vacation Bible School's grand finale, you noticed a new wooden cross adorning the Sanctuary. Kevin Eibes, as Jesus, demonstrated God's sacrifice for us.

Bill Carter crafted the cross and donated it, along with a stand for it. He also made one for himself and when you go to the next Easter Sunrise Service you will see it on his hilltop.

Thanks, Bill, for creating such a great visual reminder of God's amazing love for us!

**SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM:** Charles Bell, Jim French, Steve Hemphill, Marilyn Nuss, Camille Reynen, Julie Schulthies, Ed Whitmore, JoAnn Williams, ruling elders.

**SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM:** Bill Carter, Sue Carter, Adele Coulter, (secretary), Ruth Francis, Barb Garcia (moderator), Craig Gilchrist, Carey King, Pat Saldeen, Jay Schafer, (vice-moderator), Jolene Schafer, Sandy Smith, Pat Whitmore.

**GOD'S STEWARDS TEAM:** Connie Bowen (Secretary), Terri Huddleston, Larry Lazenby (Co-President), Francis McAllister, (Treasurer/Co-President), Chuck Rucker.

## Thank You

Thank you for your thoughtful donation. Your generosity enables us to better serve our community and is greatly appreciated.  
**Community Action Neighborhood Center**

Thank you so much for your June donation to Community Action. Because of your donation, we are able to make life better for families who are in crisis.

**Sharon Ford, Executive Director  
Community Action**



- August 1.....Sandy Smith
- August 2.....Emry Schneden
- August 5.....Aiden Van Winkle
- August 7.....Julane Hugg
- .....Judy Nalley
- .....Alice Naylor
- August 10.....Alexis Van Winkle
- August 14.....Jack Naylor
- August 17.....Lou Harter
- .....Bob Snider
- August 18.....Leo Laue
- 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>1</b> 4:00 PM Rich-Seibrecht Wedding
<b>2</b> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:15 AM Rod Bell DVD 10:00 AM Worshipin Fellowship Hall 11:00 AM Youth Bake Sale	<b>3</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Office Closed	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:15 AM Rod Bell DVD 10:00 AM Worship	<b>10</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Knitwits 7:00 PM Mission Committee	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Office Closed 5:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal 7:00 PM Moms Group	<b>15</b> Connections Deadline 5:30 PM Wiberg-Stonerook Wedding
<b>16</b> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:15 AM Rod Bell DVD 10:00 AM Worship	<b>17</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	<b>20</b> 1:30 PM Hope Haven Birthday Party 6:00 PM Yum Yum Group	<b>21</b> Office Closed	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Joint Officers Meeting
<b>23</b> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:15 AM Rod Bell DVD 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Webster's 60th Anniversary Party	<b>24</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Office Closed 7:00 PM Moms Group	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:15 AM Rod Bell DVD 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM 5th Sunday	<b>31</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting					

## Tammy Invites You.....

This year we had 7 very eager youth go to Camp Wyoming for different camping experiences. In July, **Ashley Kunz** attended the *Pioneer Camp*, **Caleb Kunz** attended the *Explorer Swimming Camp*, **Kaylee Hulett** attended the *Discovery Camp* and **Zach Hulett** attended the *Night Owl Camp*. **Allison Nalley** is currently attending the *Pioneer Camp* and **Lily and Henry Nalley** attended the *You and Me Camp*. They will have lots of stories to tell so if you see them in church Sunday take time to stop and ask them about it. I will share some of their stories in next month's Connections.

To help with the cost of camp we are going to have a bake sale in Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, August 2. Please stop down and show your support. I am also looking for people to help bake. If you are willing to bake something to sell please let me know by Wednesday July 26 so I can plan accordingly.



### **Bible School Props**

Making the props for the 2015 Bible School was a loose team effort, but nonetheless, it all came together by the due date. Tammy Hulett told us what she wanted, and had pictures to show what she had in mind. With that she asked the Hemphill's to make the jeep, Pauline Johnson to make the orange animal crossing signs, and Ed Whitmore to determine how to make the rock, the throne room and the tomb using the photographs as a guide. To help Ed execute his ideas were Mike Gorman, Kevin Eibes and Craig Gilchrist. These four were known as the Motley Crew as they had no set schedule due to a variety of reasons. Ed had a case of the shingles virus, Mike squeezed time in from other commitments, Kevin gave up his daytime sleeping (he works the nightshift) and Craig had back issues. But it all came together, barely in time for the grand opening. And everyone had fun making it happen!