

Kick-Off Sunday — September 13



The countdown is on! Sept. 13th is quickly approaching, as we look to kick-off a new year of Sunday School filled with new opportunities and ministries! The morning will begin at 10:00 a.m. with our Sunday Worship in the shelter house at Perkins Park. A potluck lunch will follow. The drinks and table settings will be provided. We have reserved the entire shelter house so we will have plenty of room for everyone. After lunch we will have a game of water balloon baseball for the youth, and for any adult who is young at heart.

*Dirty Hands Sunday, August 30.....*by Ed Whitmore

Our Dirty Hands project will be located at 505 Summer Street. This is a family who is purchasing their home on contract, and are spending most of their free time fixing up the inside. They have limited resources, and the South Hill Neighborhood Association has asked for our help. Our efforts will be spent on the outside yardwork. Work to be done includes removing pea gravel from a potential flower bed, mowing the grass, removing trash, removing dirt that is piled against the siding, possibly planting some flowers, and fixing a swing in the backyard.

We will meet there directly after church on August 30th. We will need a lawn mower, at least three wheelbarrows (four might be better), shovels, trash bags, loppers, rakes, an extension ladder to gain access to the limb so the swing can be reattached, possibly a gas powered weed eater, hand clippers and small garden tools.

There are two young children with this household, a boy and a girl. It is my understanding that the girl has epilepsy, and frequent trips to Iowa City are necessary. The swing is her favorite plaything. Lunch will be provided. Instead of having it in the Fellowship Hall like we usually do, we will take it over to the project area and share with the family. We may have some other helpers from the neighborhood, and if so, we will provide lunch for them also. Folding chairs might be handy unless you enjoy eating while standing.

There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.



Glimpses of God's Grace

Dear church family,

We are slowly making our way through various aspects of a series called *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. Over the summer months we heard about radical hospitality, hosted a retreat on *Entertaining Angels Unaware*, tried to practice what we were learning by inviting our Egyptian Coptic brothers and sisters to share about their faith traditions, fellowship and feast with us on two different occasions, and hosted free summer breakfasts on Sundays. We also have a new Session committee being formed, Radical Hospitality, which is being moderated by Elder Camille Reynen.

Because Scripture is loaded with commands and stories of radical hospitality shown by Jesus and God's people, we are never going to be 'done with' radical hospitality, as we continue to implement what we have learned in the months to come. But we are going to move to the next practice in the coming weeks, which is called Passionate Worship. We have a new committee that is working with the Rev'd Randy Webster and under the leadership of elders Ed Whitmore and Cheryl Lotz to explore even more deeply what it means to passionately worship God, not only on Sunday mornings, but during the week as well. Looking at Romans 12 recently, we began to get some insight into the reality that when we love and serve others, when we offer ourselves as 'living sacrifices' to God, we are engaging in an act of worship. We will have the opportunity to explore even more deeply Romans 12 through a DVD series by Pastor Chip Ingram called *Living on the Edge* that will be offered before and after worship on Sundays and during the men's and women's Bible studies this fall.

So, when we talk about Passionate Worship, what do we mean? I do not have a specific idea yet, but I do know we want our worship experiences on Sunday mornings to appeal to the whole person, including our will, emotion and intellect. As Marva Dawn notes, in her book *Reaching Out without Dumbing Down*, "Our goal is that worship practices will form character so that believers respond to God with commitment, love, thought and virtuous action. The Scriptures make it clear that God wants His people not just to feel good, but to be good." (p. 175) It has also been said that, "Worship strengthens a person's spiritual muscles. ... And worship becomes better and better as worshipers become stronger and stronger." (*The Gift of Worship*, p. 159)

In a nutshell, we want to worship God with our whole being and we want to love and serve our neighbors with our whole being (which is also an act of worship). What does that look like? Stay tuned!

In His service,
Deb

Trustee Report

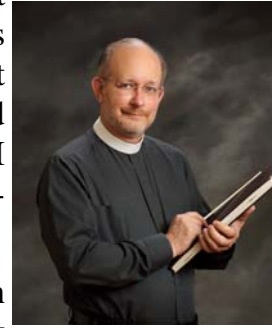
Statement of Income & Expense July 31, 2015

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Percent of Budget
Balance Forward	\$16,678.00			
	\$11,000.00			
Income				
Pledge	168,558.00	97,536.50	71,021.50	57.9%
Non Pledge	24,000.00	22,301.03	1,698.97	92.9%
Investment In- come	18,027.00	19,823.38	-1,796.38	110.0%
PerCapita	3,000.00	2,122.26	877.74	70.7%
Misc Income		1282.64		
Total Income	241,263.00	143,065.81	98,197.19	59.3%
Expenses				
Personnel	179,160.00	102,445.75	76,714.25	57.2%
Youth Ministries	2,650.00	2,278.16	371.84	86.0%
Fellowship	1,350.00	1,215.68	134.32	90.1%
Deacons	750.00	233.38	516.62	31.1%
Property	61,330.00	32,733.93	28,596.07	53.4%
Worship	3,150.00	1,676.15	1,473.85	53.2%
Total Expenses	248,390.00	140,583.05	107,806.95	56.6%
Differential		2,482.76		
Estimated Income Hanna	\$31,540.00	\$26,867.65	4,672.35	85.2%
Mission Budget	\$26,295.00	13,315.69	12,979.31	50.6%
Differential		13,551.96		

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

Reflections from Rev'd Randy Webster

In September, 1993, I left Burlington to attend graduate school as a musician at Bexley Hall, an Episcopal seminary in Rochester, New York, which shared its space with students of twenty-two other denominations. I had grown up here at First Presbyterian, recently embraced the Episcopal Church and its worship, and through my work as an organist sported a “musical coat of many colors.” I thought I had seen it all and, as a result, knew it all. Not in my wildest imagination could I have expected what I would encounter there.



Two things happened within my first week there. The first was my Introduction to Liturgy class. The word liturgy comes from a Greek word meaning “the work of the people.” In our first class we looked at a passage from II Samuel 6, which reads

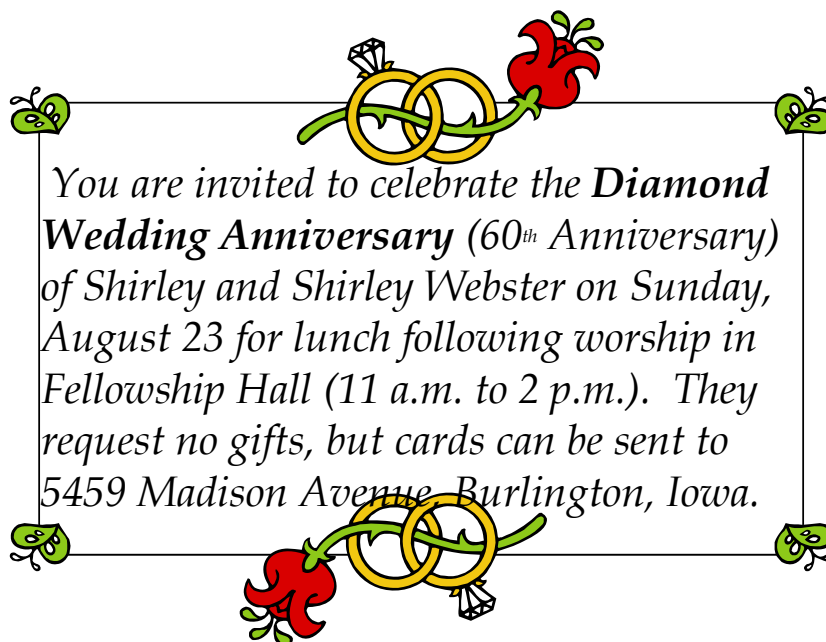
David danced before the LORD with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. (II Samuel 6:14-15, NRSV)

No Midwestern Presbyterian and certainly no Anglo-Catholic Episcopalian would admit relating to the passage. That kind of stuff was relegated to “those” kind of churches, when my colleagues looked over their glasses at our professor. We were too busy arguing over “orthodoxy,” another three-dollar word that comes from Greek and means “true worship,” after all we all knew what true worship was.

During that same week I attended my first chapel service in the Black-Church tradition. I can't remember ever being so frightened. At first I thought that my reaction was just to a form of worship that I had never encountered; we certainly had been trained to keep our hands neatly folded and never voiced anything unless we were spoken to, which was not the case in the first two minutes of that service! As I thought about it I began to realize that the service stirred up visceral responses that I had been taught to heartily suppress. I began to realize that arguing about “right worship” might not have been the best place to put our energy, but rather about worship that was fervent, ardent, or “passionate.” And the passage that we had read from Samuel began to make sense.

Faithfully.

Randy+



DVD Bible Study

This fall, there will be four opportunities for you to be a part of our Adult Education program. We hope you will consider joining us!

Pastor Deb will be facilitating a 9-week DVD study on Romans 12, called *Living on the Edge*, beginning Sunday, Sept. 20 and Wednesday, Sept. 23. Featuring pastor Chip Ingram, this 9-session study will look at *God's Dream for Your Life*, *How to Get God's Best for Your Life* and *How to Experience Authentic Community*, to name a few topics. Chip has been a pastor, author and teacher for over 30 years and is president of Living on the Edge, an international teaching and discipleship ministry.

Each DVD is between 30 and 40 minutes in length, with a brief time of discussion to follow. As it was with *The Story*, you will have the opportunity to share, if you wish, or not share and just listen, if you wish.

Each session will be in the Chapel, to enhance your viewing and listening experience. Sunday sessions will be at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. and will be 45 minutes. Wednesday sessions will be at 7:15 a.m. (men) and 8:30 a.m. (women) and will be 60 minutes.

Captain Carey and the kids



God's Pencil...by Christine Dwight

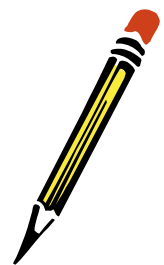
I am just a pencil lying on God's desk; a utensil waiting to be used;
Without Him I can do nothing; until in His hand I am placed.

He tells me what to write when and where He chooses.

I cannot stand on my own, for it is His strength I am using.

Pick me up and use me God.

I am ready to do your bidding.



Newsworthy Notes



Please once again give a huge ‘thank you!’ to Bret Stensland for all his hard work as our tech guy. Bret puts in countless hours to do the sound, the PowerPoint segments, the video clips from Pastor Deb and whatever else is needed to complement our worship experiences.

As we begin a new season of worship and music, the Hallelujah Handbells will once again be blessing our worship experience in the coming months. Please give a huge ‘thank you!’ to Carol Brotherson, the director, and her dedicated team of ringers. The group of musicians volunteers time every week in order to bring us quality music as we worship God.



As we begin a new school year, one of our mission projects in the community is the Boomerang Backpacks. Please give a huge ‘thank you!’ to Mike Gorman who is the co-ordinator of this ministry that seeks to feed some of the needy children in Burlington.

Please give another huge ‘thank you!’ to Treasurer and Trustee Co-Moderator Francis McAllister who has been fixing doors, replacing lights, picking up glass and doing an assortment of other maintenance tasks this summer.



Please give another huge ‘thank you!’ to Deacon Sandy Smith who has faithfully kept the beautiful flowers in front of the Sanctuary doors alive and blooming this summer.

Everyone who volunteers their time is greatly appreciated. If you know of a volunteer you would like mentioned and noticed, please let the church office know.

Worship schedule

Aug. 23: *Radical Hospitality* from Romans 12:9-21

Aug. 30: 5th Sunday Dirty/Clean Hands; *Radical Hospitality* from John 21:1-17

Sept. 6: Labor Day Weekend: Communion; *Radical Hospitality* from Isaiah 25:6-9, Luke 14:7-14

Sept. 14: *Kickoff Sunday* at Perkins Park; looking at Psalm 19

Sept. 20: Choir begins; *Passionate Worship: What God Does* from Psalm 84

Sept. 27: *Passionate Worship: For the Love of God, What We Do* from Psalm 104

Oct. 4: World Communion; *Passionate Worship: Expectancy* from Psalm 118

Minute for Mission

Paint-a-Thon

The house to be painted this year is at 1709 Delmar Street. For those who have signed up, be sure to bring your own brush and paint rag. Painting will begin on September 8 in the morning. We will not be painting in the heat of the afternoon.



Clean Hands Ministry

We will be taking a meal to the firemen on Sunday, August 30. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Whatever our God-given talents, by working together we are able to spread His love to one another.

CCC Update:

"Come to Church with a Can" has seen a surge in food items donated in August. Our total number of items to-date is 479. Your continued support is greatly appreciated as there is still a substantial need to provide food items to less fortunate members of our community. Thank you for your donations.

Missions money at work

Janet Calvin has been busy delivering our FPC blue shopping bags and emergency blankets to the Neighborhood Center, the Homeless Shelter and the Salvation Army.

In June, 5 blankets and 10 shopping bags were given to the Neighborhood Center; in July she left 8 more bags and 4 more blankets.

The Homeless Shelter in June received 4 blankets and 10 shopping bags and in August they received 5 more shopping bags and 3 large emergency blankets.

All were happy to receive these essentials from the church family.

News from Tammy

Meet Arihan Aristides Dicient Guzman, our new sponsor child from Comendador. Arihan is a 3 1/2 year old boy going into preschool. His father is a public employee and his mother sells lottery tickets for a living. At home Arihan helps his parents run errands. He enjoys toy cars and playing group games with other children. Our love and support will help Arihan receive school books, food, and basic dental and medical care. Last month I received a letter from Vision Trust. They let me know that Alexander, our sponsor child from Comendador, has been enrolled in the public school system and he is no longer a part of the Vision Trust program.



Staff Reports	July, 2015	Pastor Deb Kinney
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<p>Worship 3 worship services</p> <p>Education 6 Bible study groups 3 DVD study groups</p> <p>Connections 8 Drop-ins/appointments/calls 4 home/hospital/prison visits 22 cards sent</p> <p>Church Meetings Congregational meeting</p>	<p>Staff (3) Church Activities/Events Attended <i>Entertaining Angels</i> retreat 2 Sunday breakfasts cleanup</p> <p>Other 1 premarital counseling 1 Spiritual direction session <i>Connections</i> work Staff birthday lunch Separate meetings with staff (12)</p> <p>Vacation 1 Sunday, 6 work days</p>
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Dir. of Youth Ministries	July, 2015	Tammy Hulett
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<p>Worship Young Disciples (4)</p> <p>Church Meetings & Events Meetings with Pastor (3) Working in KidZone (3) Bible Study (4) Sunday morning breakfast (4) Youth Ministries Committee Meeting</p> <p>Contacts Phone-calls and e-mails: 40+</p>	<p>Education Children's Message Prep (4) KidZone Prep (3)</p> <p>Other <i>Connections</i> articles Worked on KidZone activities</p>
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Minister of Faith & Worship	July, 2015	Rev'd Randy Webster
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<p>Sunday Worship services (4) Preaching (1) Bible study (2) Retreat: Entertaining Angels Unaware Hospital visitation Wedding rehearsal Staff meetings (4) Yum-Yums</p>	<p>Worship planning and consultation with the Pastor Summer breakfast (2) Summer retreat planning Program planning 2015-2016 including several meetings with committee heads Private practice and soloist rehearsals Connections submissions</p>
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Church Happenings

PW News



September 2, 2015
At 9:45 a.m.

Co-Hostesses: Eva Ann Elmer @ home
 Marilyn Malcom

Study Leader: Eva Ann Elmer

Mission: CCC (Come to church with a Can)

On Thursday, September 17, **Yum Yums** will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Fareway parking lot to carpool to Little Mexico in Mt. Pleasant. All are welcome. Please call Bonnie White at 752-1244 or Sue Carter at 753-0683 for more information and to make reservations.



Dwight (Buck) Jones turns 100 years young on September 8. Let's shower him with cards on his special day! His address is 3301 Sterling Drive, Burlington, IA 52601.

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM: Charles Bell, Jim French, Steve Hemphill, Cheryl Lotz, Marilyn Nuss, Camille Reynen, Julie Schulthies, Ed Whitmore, JoAnn Williams (Clerk of Session), 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.

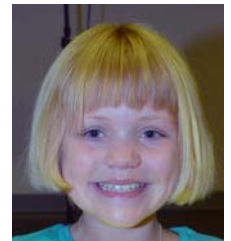
GOD'S STEWARDS TEAM: Connie Bowen (Secretary), Terri Huddleston, Larry Lazenby (Co-President), Francis McAllister, (Treasurer/Co-President), Chuck Rucker.

Thank You

In July, gifts were sent to University of Iowa Children's Hospital for the Treasure Chest. Thank you for the gifts that were put in our Treasure Chest to send to the hospital. After their treatments, patients are allowed to choose a gift from the Treasure Chest. Thank you for supporting this ministry and for showing God's love to these children.

Janet Calvin

Dear First Presbyterian Church,
 Thank you for letting me go to Camp Grandma and Camp Wyoming. I had so much fun and I hope to have fun again next year.
 Sincerely,
Ashley Kunz





Dear First Presbyterian Church,
 Thank you for allowing me to go to Camp Grandma and Camp Wyoming. I had a lot of fun. I hope to have more next year.
Caleb Kunz



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
.....	Peter Reynen
September 8.....	Buck Jones
September 10.....	Ella Jo Schneden
September 17.....	Penny Rucker
September 22.....	Ed Whitmore
September 26.....	Donna Siefken

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:45 AM PW	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 10:00 AM Worship	7 Office Closed 	8 Paint-A-Thon begins 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM Trustees Meeting	9 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Knitwits	10	11 Office Closed 7:00 PM Moms Group	12
13 10:00 AM Worship in Perkins Park/Kickoff Sunday	14 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	15 Connections Deadline	16 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study - 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Mission Committee	17 1:30 PM Hope Haven Birthday Party 6:00 PM Yum Yum Group	18 Office Closed	19
20 9:00 AM DVD in Chapel 10:00 AM Worship/ Youth Sunday 11:15 AM DVD in Chapel	21 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Session Meeting	22	23 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	24	25 Office Closed 7:00 PM Moms Group	26
27 9:00 AM DVD in Chapel 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM DVD in Chapel	28 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	29	30 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study			