

August Connections 2016

Reflections from Randy

On one of my daily trips to see Dad recently I overheard two of the nurses speaking, and one of them was talking about events at her church. At the end of the conversation she asked the other to come and visit, and the response was “I’ve just been waiting to be asked.”

The next day, the first day that I engaged the Pokemon Go players outside the church’s doors at night I opened the church doors to give about fifty young people a quick “look-see” of our sanctuary. At the end I told them they were always welcome here and that the services were at 10 a.m. on Sunday. One young couple responded that they might visit the following Sunday, that “We’ve just been waiting to be asked.”

“I’ve just been waiting to be asked.” That common response started me thinking.

During Jesus’ earthly ministry he welcomed everyone who came into his presence, but it didn’t start there. His disciples were always bringing others to see him. At the very beginning Peter brought his brother Andrew to meet Jesus, and Philip brought Greeks to meet Jesus. Later Jesus would send his disciples out in pairs to tell others of the good news.

Recently I came across an article by Rob Moss called “Why we will no longer be a welcoming church.” When I first read the title I was appalled, but it caused me to engage his text. He explained that simply being a welcoming church was passive from a missional perspective. It denoted that the congregation was just waiting for visitors and guests to drop by. Instead inviting was active.

Many of us grew up in a time when everyone attended church, and it came as a result of some things that happened in society and the world. We began to sit back and just wait for people to show up at our doors because we knew they would. We had really abandoned God’s call to us. But those days are behind us, and we need to return to our calling as children of God, and that is to actively bring others into relationship with God.

Being invitational seems too big, too audacious, too frightening, so we simply don’t do it. The author gave five challenges that might help.

1. Try using “my church” in a conversation with one person this week. It’s as simple as talking with just one person one time each week during the month.
2. Consider one word or phrase that describes your congregation well, then use the word to finish the sentence “My church is ____.” When you start looking for opportunities to bring up your congregation in conversation, it’s amazing how often they arise.
3. Think about one thing your congregation does well and use it to finish the phrase “My church is really good at ____.” If you’re continuing to try and do these things once a week in a conversation, you’ll begin to get the hang of this.
4. Invite one person to check out something in which your congregation is involved. Trust me, there are a lot of people outside our doors who are just waiting to be asked.
5. Invite someone you know to come to worship with you. This seems like the most frightening invitation for some to make. Remember the basis of our identity as people of God is our new life given to us in Jesus Christ. When we quit pushing that on others and simply be that through caring relationships we reveal the love of God. And who knows? The neighbor you invited to church might just reveal something about God that you didn’t know before.

“I’ve just been waiting to be asked.”

Warmly,

Randy+



Trustee Report

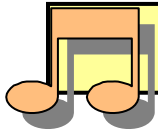
Statement of Income & Expense June 30, 2016

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Percent of Budget
Income				
Pledge	179,254.00	88,407.00	90,847.00	49.3%
Non Pledge	21,028.00	11,155.87	9,872.13	53.1%
Investment In- come	17,700.00	3,135.12	14,564.88	17.7%
Misc Income		2555.76		
Total Income	217,982.00	105,253.75	112,728.25	48.3%
Expenses				
Personnel	145,147.00	70,417.56	74,729.44	48.5%
Youth Ministries	3,580.00	1,773.49	1,806.51	49.5%
Radical Hospital- ity	2,235.00	480.39	1,754.61	21.5%
Deacons	760.00	216.40	543.60	28.5%
Property	62,210.00	27,812.28	34,397.72	44.7%
Worship	4,050.00	1,026.97	3,023.03	25.4%
Total Expenses	217,982.00	101,727.09	116,254.91	46.7%
Differential		3,526.66		
Estimated Income Hanna	\$29,000.00	\$14,553.08	14,446.92	50.2%
Mission Budget	\$30,580.00	12,765.92	17,814.08	41.7%
Differential		1,787.16		

Paint-A-Thon

Fall is just around the corner from our summer vacations and the Paint-A-Thon will be here Labor Day week! Sign-up sheets for shirt size will be down in the Fellowship Hall for completion by the end of July. Information on the location of our house to paint and who our partner painting group will be is going to be available the middle of August. So, get your paint brushes and other equipment ready!





Newsorthy Notes: Sandwich Ministry

The Sandwich Ministry continues every Sunday, rain or shine, heat or cold...sort of like the Pony Express! It is a delight to have children helping the adults; the Hoisington grandchildren helped on two Sundays in July.

On Sunday, Aug. 28, the children and youth will be helping Elder Camille Reynen. They will arrive at 9:15 a.m. to put together the sandwiches and then will travel together after worship to hand out the sack lunches, as part of their mini-missions for the summer.



Thanks to all involved in the May/June Clean Hands Project

Many hands took part in mixing, baking and delivering cookies to the Half-way House on Sunday, May 29. There is nothing like homemade cookies to bring a smile to someone away from home and in uncomfortable situations. The young men very much appreciated and were thankful for the treat.



A big **Thank You** to all who helped preparing, cooking and serving the **Salvation Army** dinner Sunday, June 26th. Although the count of people served was down considerably, arrangements were made ahead of time to take any leftover food to the **Homeless Shelter**.

augUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	4 3:15 PM Trustees Meeting	5 Office Closed	6
7 10:00 AM Worship	8	9 6:00 PM Worship Committee	10 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Knitwits	11	12 Office Closed	13
14 10:00 AM Worship	15 Connections Deadline 7:00 PM Session Meeting	16 6:00 PM Deacons	17 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	18 NO Yum Yums 1:30 PM Hope Haven Birthday Party	19 Office Closed	20
21 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Youth Ministries	22 7:00 PM Mission Meeting	23	24 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	25	26 Office Closed	27
28 10:00 AM Worship	29	30	31 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study			

We would like to have fresh flowers for our worship services during the summer months when we can. You don't have to arrange them unless you wish to. If you have garden flowers for cutting (even a few) would you please contact Randy Webster by phone or text at 570-766-2181, or by email at websterrl@aol.com. Thank you!



Church Happenings

PW News



Sunday, July 31

Honoring Presbyterian Women

Yum Yums

No Yum Yums in August.

Have a great summer.

Bonnie White & Sue Carter



Thank You

Thank you notes were received from The Homeless Shelter for money and goods that they received, from Community Action for donations of both food and money, from the Domestic Violence Shelter for funds to support them and from the Rogers family for the prayer shawl and the prayers.

From Jack Anderson

Thank you to everyone at the church who gave me the goody basket. I loved all of the gifts I received and thanks for taking the time to think of me.

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM: Mike Elmer, Jim French, Steve Hemphill, Pauline Johnson, Cheryl Lotz, Jill Mehaffy-Nalley, Camille Reynen, Ed Whitmore, JoAnn Williams (Clerk of Session), ruling elders.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM: Bill Carter & Sue Carter, (Moderator), Adele Coulter, (secretary), Vicki Elmer, Ruth Francis, (Vice moderator) Craig Gilchrist, Carey King, Pat Saldeen, Jay Schafer, Jolene Schafer, Bob Snider, Pat Whitmore.

GOD'S STEWARDS TEAM: Terri Huddleston, Wilma Hemphill, Larry Lazenby (Co-President), Francis McAllister, (Treasurer/Co-President), LaDonna Putnam, Chuck Rucker.

In June and July, a total of 80 gifts were sent to our friends who are patients at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital. The unit has 30 beds and many patients have multiple treatments during the month. Our Treasure Chest is supplying enough gifts to the children, even if they have more than one treatment in the month. Thank you to all of our church family who provide these gifts.

It is often hard to find gifts for the pre-teens and teenagers but the shorts and shirts that were donated by a friend of Bill & Sue Carter will make the perfect gifts for the older children in the unit. The clothing was mailed on July 12 will arrive within the week. Thanks to the Carters for making this gift possible.

Some of the children in the unit are unable to attend school but there are tutors available to help them keep up with their studies. I would like to suggest that this month we purchase school supplies for the Treasure Chest and they will be sent to the unit later in August. Thank you again for providing these deserving children with God's love through your generous donations.

Janet Calvin



- August 1.....Sandy Smith
- August 2.....Emry Schneden
- August 7.....Julane Hugg
-Judy Nalley
- August 14.....Jack Naylor
- August 17.....Lou Harter
-Bob Snider
- August 18.....Leo Laue
- August 23.....Rudy Naifeh
- August 24.....Ramona Sandroek
- August 25.....Barb Garcia
- August 26.....Nick Clayton
-Mike Elmer
-Marilyn Nuss
- August 30.....Jordan Huddleston

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