

# September Connections 2016

## “Invite a Friend Hayrack Ride”

### Invite a Friend (or 10!)

The annual Progressive Hayrack Ride has been scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 15, from 2-5:30 p.m. We hope you are praying and thinking about friends, neighbors, family members to invite to this church family event ... and then do so!

This year there will be a prize!!! for the person/family/couple who invites the most people who end up attending. For those who have experienced this fun afternoon in the past, we don't need to tell you that there will be activities for all ages to enjoy (and yes, we mean ALL ages!)

At the starting point, which again will be at the home of Bill & Sue Carter, 500 Washington Road, West Burlington (off Mt. Pleasant Street), there will be a pumpkin-decorating contest, fishing, paddle-boating, kayaking, games and snacks.

After about 90 minutes of that rollicking fun, everyone who desires to ride on hayracks will be loaded up (those who wish to ride in cars will be doing so as well) and taken about 2 miles to the Kinney Kompond, which is off 116<sup>th</sup> Street in West Burlington. A bonfire will greet you, along with chocolate, graham crackers and of course marshmallows to create your own s'mores. A pumpkin hunt— like an Easter egg hunt with goodie\$ inside for all ages!—will be the next adventure, along with a special hidden pumpkin that promises to yield special prizes. Once most of the pumpkins have been discovered (each year Pastor Deb finds a few hidden gems days/months later) everyone will load up again and ride or drive back to the beginning for a second bonfire on which you can roast hotdogs. There will also be a pot of chili for those wishing to sample all the fare the day has to offer.

So, mark your calendars, begin inviting friends and get ready to have some rootin', tootin' good times this fall.



# Glimpses of Grace

Dear Church Family,

I received an email recently that asked, ‘What is your biggest dream for your church? What would you fearlessly ask the Lord if you knew that anything was possible? Will you trust Him with that dream? Will you invite God to help you dream bigger? Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence—Hebrews 4:16’

The email came after I told the Bible study groups that my new prayer for the congregation will be Paul’s prayer for the church in Ephesus: ‘I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.’ (1:17) That Scripture came after I read a snippet from the Rev. Dr. Calvin Miller’s memoir: We entice people to be busy rather than to crave union with their Savior.

Union with Jesus Christ, knowing God better is God’s first desire, always. It is not that we start new programs, it is not that we keep busy ‘doing good’, it is not that we maintain the status quo, or go back to the ‘good ol’ days’. God’s desire is about relationships right here, right now, with Him, with each other and with our neighbors. Is that your desire? Is that our officers’ desire? Is that our congregation’s desire? It has become my first and foremost desire for me, for you and for this church, which is the Body of Christ.

Change continues to be in the air as we look at the kick off of our Fall programs, as we discern about a restructuring of our boards and staffing, as we prepare the budget for 2017, complete with challenges and dreams, and as I set to work on my dissertation project. But one thing remains the same: God, the glorious Father, desires to be in relationship with each one of us. He desires that we may know Him better, that we crave union with His Son as we seek His kingdom here on earth, through our worship, our ministries, our meetings and our fellowship.

So, back to the question from the email. What is YOUR biggest dream for FPC? The Elders, Deacons and Trustees have begun wrestling with this question and will continue to wrestle, listen and discern over the next few months. The answer may be different for the different boards, but the response will be the same: We will begin praying fearlessly for those dreams and trust God to fulfill them as we seek to know Him even better!

In His service,

Deb

# Trustee Report

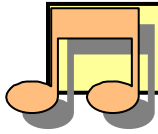
## Statement of Income & Expense July 31, 2016

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Percent of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
Pledge	179,254.00	104,461.00	74,793.00	58.3%
Non Pledge	21,028.00	14,375.37	6,652.63	68.4%
Investment In- come	17,700.00	3,302.00	14,398.00	18.7%
Misc Income		2697.76		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>217,982.00</b>	<b>124,836.13</b>	<b>93,145.87</b>	<b>57.3%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Personnel	145,147.00	82,541.78	62,605.22	56.9%
Youth Ministries	3,580.00	1,836.81	1,743.19	51.3%
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	30,614.94	31,595.06	49.2%
Worship	4,050.00	1,026.97	3,023.03	25.4%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>217,982.00</b>	<b>116,717.29</b>	<b>101,264.71</b>	<b>53.5%</b>
<b>Differential</b>		<b>8,118.84</b>		
Estimated Income Hanna	\$29,000.00	\$24,033.95	4,966.05	82.9%
Mission Budget	\$30,580.00	14,576.59	16,003.41	47.7%
<b>Differential</b>		<b>9,457.36</b>		

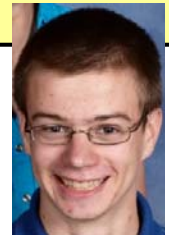
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**Joanie, Susan, Pat & Toddy**  
baking cookies for the Steeple  
Lighting event on August 19 at  
8:30 pm and having too much  
fun!





# News-worthy Notes



A huge ‘thank you!’ to Caleb Hemphill for tackling the children’s messages and KidZone during his summer break.

## Welcome Back Sundays

On **Sunday, Sept. 11** we welcome back the Sunday morning teachers and the children and youth! At 9 a.m. sharp, teachers/Elders Pauline Johnson, Jim French and Jill Mehaffy-Nalley will be in the Rainbow Room on respective weeks, teaching the children (4<sup>th</sup> grade and under) about God and the Bible. The children will have their own Bibles to study each week. At 9 a.m. sharp, Pastor Deb will be downstairs in the basement with the youth (5<sup>th</sup> grade and above) each Sunday. The youth will be encouraged to bring their own Bibles, or will be given Bibles to study as together they explore the Christian faith.

On Sunday, Sept. 11 during worship we will be having a brief hymn sing, joining our voices in praising God through hymns that many of you have asked to sing.

On **Sunday, Sept. 18** we welcome back the Choir!

On **Sunday, Sept. 25** we welcome back the Puppet Ministry, under the leadership of Wilma Hemphill. If you have questions, please contact one of the Elders or Pastor Deb.

## Upcoming Worship Schedule

**Sept. 4** Communion around the Table; Summer Choir; *Known by God* from Psalm 139

**September 11** Welcome Back Sunday; *Why Are We Here?* From 1 Timothy 1:12-17; brief ‘requested-hymns’ sing with ‘new’ organ unveiled

**Sept. 18** Choir returns; *Greater Joy* from Psalm 4

**Sept. 25** Puppet ministry; *Be Still and Know* from Psalm 46

**Oct. 2** World Communion Sunday; *Feeding the World* from Isaiah 25:6-10a, Mark 8:1-10; special music by Jim French, Vickie Carhoff, Randy Kinney

**Oct. 9** *Taking Care of All God has Entrusted to Us 1: Earth* from Psalm 24:1-10, Gen. 2:8-15

**Hymn festival** at 4 p.m. (*Proclaim in grateful song*) with opportunities for ‘organ peek’, slide show of installation of organ, demonstration of organ, no privy wall, communion table moved to side

**Oct. 16** *Taking Care of All God has Entrusted to Us 2: Property* from 1 Chronicles 29:1-19

**Oct. 23** Children’s Sabbath; puppets ministry; *Taking Care of All God has Entrusted to Us 3: Talents* from 1 Corinthians 12:14-26

**Oct. 30** Ingathering of Pledges; *Taking Care of All God has Entrusted to Us 4: Treasure* from 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

**Organ recital and Symphony Orchestra** performance beginning at 4 p.m.

**Nov. 6** All Saints; communion; hymn festival *In Paradisum* (In Paradise) included in worship

**Nov. 13** Veterans honored; *Praising God* from Isaiah 12

**Nov. 20** Christ the King; *King of ...?* From Luke 23:33-43; Colossians 1:11-20

**Organ recital:** Handel’s *Ode for St. Cecilia’s Day* and *Organ Concerto* at 7 p.m.

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## Interested in Joining Us?

Are you interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church? Do you have a desire to find out what it means to become a member? Are you ready to join FPC? Pastor Deb will be conducting a brief 45-minute Inquirers/New Members session after worship on Sunday, Sept. 18 in the Chapel. If you have questions, or will not be able to attend but would like to join, please do not hesitate to contact Deb.

# Reflections from Randy

The Bible is full of admonitions to come to God's house to worship God. Taking a brief look through the Psalms reminds of that, and the book of Revelation tells us that our final destination is continuous worship of God.

But, on many days, I have to remind myself why I come together for public worship. Often I find myself asking if people "liked" worship at coffee hour, and, in doing so, I fall into the trap of sin. I confuse the reason we worship together, which is God-centered, with my own interests, which is "me" centered.

So what is the purpose of worship?

The Preface to the *Book of Common Worship* says:

*Worship is at the heart of the church's life. All that the church is and does is rooted in its worship. The community of faith, gathered in response to God's call, is formed in its worship. Worship is the principal influence that shapes our faith, and is the most visible way we express the faith.*

*In worship, through Word and Sacrament, the church is stained by the presence of Christ.*

*Joined in worship to the One who is the source of its life, the church is empowered to serve God in the world.*

Music has a powerful role to play in worship. First and foremost, during the singing of hymns and responses, music provides the biggest vehicle for corporate public worship. And other pieces of music, both instrumental and vocal, have the power to bring us closer to the heart of God in both praise, and prayer, and reflection. Christopher Kurt joined us for worship just a few weeks ago and played his ukulele. He told the children during the service that he brings a gift to worship that was given to him by God, and that he is only a vehicle for God's worship.

Music in worship calls us into a deeper awareness of God, sometimes for praise and sometimes for reflection. While we are called to bring our best to worship, music within a worship service should not be a performance. Performances happen in concerts and recitals. I am currently working on a large piece for organ by Johann Sebastian Bach, which was, interestingly enough, written for secular and not sacred use. Is there a difference if I play it on Sunday morning in the Service for the Lord's Day versus if I play it during a recital? From my vantage point there is; the organ bench is the same, the music is the same, the context is different. Both may be gifts; in the case of public worship to God directly and to the people indirectly to worship God, and in the recital hall as a gift to the people.

So, if worship is about God, the difficult question becomes "How do we respond?" I think we thank God for the gift of being brought closer to God's presence. If you attend a church service and the response is "Amen!" which means "so be it." Sometimes, after a rousing piece of music which moved you to praise, that "Amen" is boisterous; sometimes, after a quiet piece of reflection which took you to an intimate place with God, it may be a quiet one of thanksgiving.

First side thought here: ALWAYS take time to thank a guest who has moved you in your worship of God for having shared their gifts and talents with us. ALWAYS.

Second side thought here: I'm ALWAYS going to encourage you to use your hands to clap during the singing of hymns. Using our whole being in response to music directed toward God is a good thing. ALWAYS.

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.*

*Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.*

*For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*

*(Psalm 100)*

Faithfully,

Randy+

# Staff Reports

## **Pastor's Report    Rev. Deb Kinney    July, 2016**

### Worship

5 worship services; ordained/installed officers  
2 children's messages with Caleb

### Education

7 Bible study groups

### Connections

24 Drop-ins/appointments/calls  
4 home/hospital visits; 1 home communion visit  
23 cards/letters sent

### Church Meetings

Trustees training  
Church Activities/Events Attended  
Knitwits  
Celebration of PW reception  
Hosted fellowship hour

### Other

*Connections* work  
Fall sermon planning  
Spiritual direction session  
Wedding shower  
Separate meetings with staff (11)

## **Minister of Faith and Worship, and Organist**

Sunday Worship services (5)  
Staff meetings  
Worship planning and consultation with the Pastor  
Planning for fall programming

## **Randy Webster    July 2016**

Meeting with the organ tuner/builder  
Soloist and choir rehearsals  
Private practice  
Connections submissions

# Personnel Report

Change is a part of life and a major change in staffing will be happening at the end of this year. Sandy Morrison, our Administrative Assistant, has decided it is time for her to retire. Session accepted her resignation at its August meeting.

Sandy has been an integral part of the church staff for the past six years. Over that time she has managed the office to operate more efficiently. She has worked tirelessly to save the church money, she has overseen the finances, the computer networking system, kept up-to-date church records, worked with church officers and committees, to name but a few of her responsibilities, and has been a cheerful and welcoming presence in the office. She will be greatly missed.

Personnel Committee is in the process of putting together a job description that we hope will incorporate the part-time Christian Education Coordinator role with that of Office Administrator. We will begin advertising for this unique position by Sept. 1.

Sandy has graciously agreed to stay until someone is hired and trained; we will be having a retirement reception for her once that happens.



**Per Capita  
Apportionment  
for 2016 is \$33.00**

# Church Happenings



September 1.....	Bob Bowen
.....	Ava Sue Kinney
September 2.....	Debbie Opiekun
September 3 .....	Jim French
September 5.....	Gabby Hall
September 6.....	Marilyn Leight
.....	Peter Reynen
September 10.....	Ella Jo Schneden
September 17.....	Penny Rucker
September 22.....	Ed Whitmore
September 26.....	Donna Siefken

## Yum Yums



Yum Yums will begin again in September with a twist. This month we will have a chicken dinner in Fellowship Hall. Just buy your ticket to the Rotary Chicken Barbeque from Paul Walker, then give the ticket to Bonnie or Sue. They will pick up the dinners on September 15 and bring them to the church for the 6:00 p.m. meal. Don't forget to put your name on the back of the ticket. Your ticket will serve as your reservation.

### Bonnie White & Sue Carter

Thank you everyone for the many gifts placed in the Treasure Chest. School supplies have been shipped to our friends in 3JC at the Children's Hospital. They will be distributed by the nurses and aides to the children.

Thank you for sending God's love to each child.

Blessings, **Janet Calvin**

**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.

## Save the Date!

*A Trio of musical events in celebration of the restoration of the organ console*

### Sunday, October 9 at 4 p.m.

*Proclaim in grateful song! (Hymn Festival)*

### Sunday, October 30 at 4 p.m.

Organ Recital

The Rev'd Randy Webster, Organist

*Music of J.S. Bach, Mendelsohn and Rheinberger*

*The Rheinberger Organ Concerto is accompanied by chamber orchestra.*

### Sunday, November 20 at 4 p.m.

Choral Concert

G.F. Handel: *Ode for St. Cecilia's Day*

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