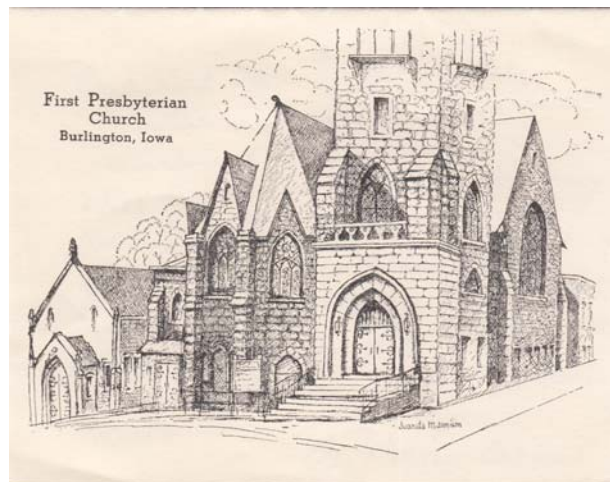


February Connections 2016

**How awesome is this place!
This is none other than the house of God;
this is the gate of heaven.** Genesis 28:17

Celebrating the 128th
anniversary of the dedication of our current building.



**Pictorial display of our building
through the ages and a variety of lenses**

Sunday, January 24 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Edward's Chapel and the Sanctuary

Hymn Festival at 3 p.m.

Scripture, poems, anthems and music under the direction of The Rev'd Randy Lee

Webster, Minister of Faith and Worship, and Organist

Reception following in Fellowship Hall

Glimpses of God's Grace

Dear friends,

We have been looking at *Cultivating Fruitfulness* in the final weeks of January, before we dive into Lent in early February. The first Sunday we looked at Jesus' seemingly random call of Andrew, Peter, James and John, as found in Matthew's gospel. Jesus is walking along the shoreline and happens upon these four fishermen who immediately respond to His call of, 'Come, follow Me'. In our Wednesday Bible studies the question was asked, 'did Jesus ask others before them, others who did not respond?' While Matthew is very succinct in his telling of the calling of these disciples, we can imagine that there very well might have been some men who stayed in their boats, remained with their families, not wanting to risk the unknown with this itinerant rabbi. Just like today, Jesus gives us the choice to follow Him or not.

Another question was raised, 'what about Zebedee?' He was the father and partner in the fishing business with his sons. Zebedee gets left holding the net, while James and John embark upon a life-changing journey. It is not difficult to imagine Zebedee's hurt at his sons' response to Jesus. And while we do not know much about Zebedee and his life thereafter, we do know that there are times when saying 'yes' to God's call also means saying 'no' to people and situations. And that can bring pain, heartache, resentment, sadness.

I have been struggling with this reality in recent weeks, until I came across Oswald Chambers' wise words in *My Utmost for His Highest* for January 11:

If we obey God, it is going to cost other people ... and that is where the pain begins.

If we obey God it will mean that other people's plans are upset.

We could prevent the suffering, but not if we are obedient to God. We must let the cost be paid.

A lack of progress in our spiritual life results when we try to bear all the costs ourselves. And actually, we cannot. Because we are so involved in the universal purposes of God, others are immediately affected by our obedience to Him. Will we remain faithful in our obedience to God and be willing to suffer the humiliation of refusing to be independent? Or will we do just the opposite and say, 'I will not cause other people to suffer'? We can disobey God if we choose, and it will bring immediate relief to the situation, but it will grieve the Lord. If, however, we obey God, He will care for those who have suffered the consequences of our obedience. We must simply obey and leave all the consequences with Him.

Beware of the inclination to dictate to God what consequences you would allow as a condition of your obedience to Him.

I am glad we have the example of James, John, Andrew and Peter, broken and flawed men, who nevertheless simply obeyed Jesus' call to follow Him while leaving the 'collateral damage' of their loved ones' hurt feelings and disrupted lives to God to heal and comfort.

Answering Jesus' call to follow as disciples is not always easy. Obeying God and being part of His universal purpose is not always easy. But it is reassuring to know we can leave the details and the consequences in His capable hands. May that continue to be our experience as we head into this new year of opportunities and challenges with the One who continues to call us to 'come, follow Me.'

In His service,

Deb

Trustee Report

Statement of Income & Expense December 31, 2015

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Percent of Budget
Income				
Pledge	168,558.00	178,873.50	-10,315.50	106.1%
Non Pledge	24,000.00	37,136.10	-13,136.10	154.7%
Investment In- come	18,027.00	19,858.39	-1,831.39	110.2%
PerCapita	3,000.00	2,857.88	142.12	95.3%
Misc Income		4894.96		
Total Income	213,585.00	243,620.83	-30,035.83	114.1%
Expenses				
Personnel	179,160.00	174,555.59	4,604.41	97.4%
Youth Ministries	2,650.00	2,785.38	-135.38	105.1%
Radical Hospital- ity	1,350.00	1,788.37	-438.37	132.5%
Deacons	750.00	449.45	300.55	59.9%
Property	61,330.00	53,369.60	7,960.40	87.0%
Worship	3,150.00	2,685.61	464.39	85.3%
Total Expenses	248,390.00	235,634.00	12,756.00	94.9%
Differential		7,986.83		
Estimated Income Hanna	\$31,540.00	\$29,660.43	1,879.57	94.0%
Mission Budget	\$25,180.00	25,287.95	-107.95	100.4%
Differential		4,372.48		

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

Congregational Meeting

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held following worship Sunday, Jan. 24, 2016 in Fellowship Hall for the purposes of receiving the budget, voting on the Pastor's Terms of Call, receiving reports from the Session committees and electing a Nominating Committee. The Annual Report is available in Fellowship Hall.



THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE will present the following candidates to serve on the 2016 nominating committee. All have agreed to serve.

Ed Whitmore, serving elder, Session representative; Carol Brotherson, non-serving elder, Session representative. Craig Gilchrist, Deacon representative.

Curtis Blom, Janet Calvin, Marilyn Leight, Bruce Morrison, members at large.

The Love Fund

The Love Fund provides money for anyone in the congregation who is in need of financial help because of unforeseen circumstances. It is to be funded solely by donations.

Loose offering collected on Sunday, February 14 will go to the Love Fund. Anyone can donate to the Love Fund throughout the year by using the Love Fund envelopes located in the pews.

If you know of someone who may have a short-term financial need and would want to be considered as a possible recipient of the Love Fund, please contact Reverend Kinney, Reverend Webster, or any member of the Deacons.

Personnel Report

Pastor Deb wrote in the January *Connections* about the changes that would be happening as a result of our \$30,000 deficit heading into 2016.

As you may know, Personnel was asked to make some significant cuts and it was with much anguish and discussion that the hours of all staff were reduced. As a result of the reduction of Youth Director Tammy Hulett's hours, she has decided to resign. Session approved her resignation at its January meeting. Tammy has requested that there be no 'going-away' reception after worship.

We do want to thank Tammy for her three years of ministry with us, working with our children. During that time she has worked with the nursery attendants, the Godly Play teachers and coordinated Vacation Bible School. She oversaw the Youth Club on Wednesday nights and the 4th Sunday ministry luncheons. She also met regularly with the MOMS group, oversaw Kick-off Sundays and the Youth Pancake breakfast and gave the weekly children's message and coordinated the KidZone time. Thank you, Tammy, for your dedication and the love you shared with our children.

Newsorthy Notes...

Thank You notes from grateful recipients:

What a blessing it was to receive the beautiful and thoughtful gift from you as I endure my stay at IA City Hospital. Thank you for being the hands and feet of our Lord. In Christ, **Vickie K.**

Thank you so much for thinking of the patients at UIHC during the holidays. My husband received a wonderful gift from you and it brightened his day. It was nice to see him smile. Thank you again. Sincerely, **Ed & Jean V.**

My husband was in the transplant unit over Christmas and your gift was a lovely surprise, and very much appreciated. He wears the hat on all his walks in the hallway. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. **Det. & Carol F.**

To our friends at FPC,
Thank you for volunteering your time last Christmas season to ring bells for The Salvation Army. God Bless, **Major Jeffery Horn, Kay, Sarah & Heather.**

Dear First Presbyterian,

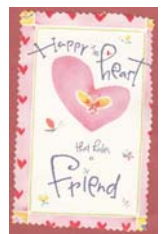
Thank you for your generous donation of the Christmas gifts to the UIHC. Through the support and generosity of friends like you, we are able to present these gifts to help comfort our patients during the holiday season. The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics staff and volunteers are very grateful for your help.

We appreciate the time and care you so willingly shared with our hospital and patients. Thank you again for keeping our program in mind. Sincerely, **Your many friends in Volunteer Services**

Thank you notes were also received from the Domestic Violence Shelter, The Burlington Area Homeless Shelter, Camp Wyoming, Southeast Iowa Community Action & North Hill Elementary (see below).

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

We simply cannot thank you enough for all you do for us. While we may never truly understand the root cause of poverty, all of us understand how it feels to have a friend to lean on. Thank you for being a friend to our school and to our students. The food you provide and the thoughtful way you provide is greatly appreciated. Thanks again, **Aaron Wagner, counselor, Katie S., Montana, Riley, Kingsley M., Julie, Mackenzie, Nikki, & Keyerson**



Worship Schedule

Worship Schedule for February

Feb. 7: Communion; *Transfiguration: Unveiled Faces* from Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

Feb. 10: Ash Wednesday Night Service; Communion by intinction, imposition of ashes

Feb. 14: *Lent 1: Temptations* from Psalm 91; Luke 4:1-3; puppet ministry

Feb. 21: *Lent 2: Standing Firm* from Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1

Feb. 28: *Lent 3: Soul Food* from Psalm 63:1-8; Isaiah 55:1-9

March 6: Communion; *Lent 4: New Creations!* from Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

March 13: *Lent 5: Winning the Prize* from Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14

March 20: *Palm Sunday: Stones Cry Out* from Psalm 118:1-4, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40

Staff Reports	December, 2015	Pastor Deb Kinney
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<p>Worship 4 worship services 2 baptisms; 1 receiving new members</p> <p>Education 4 Bible study groups</p> <p>Connections 30 Drop-ins/appointments/calls 6 home/hospital/prison visits 25 cards/letters sent</p> <p>Church Meetings Deacons Trustees Staff</p>	<p>Church Activities/Events Attended Knitwits PW luncheon Caroling to homebound Workdays decorating sanctuary (2)</p> <p>Other 1 Spiritual direction session <i>Connections</i> work Advent, budget work Pick up, deliver Angel Tree gifts Separate meetings with staff (9)</p> <p>Leave 1 Sunday, 3 work days 1.5 sick days</p>
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Minister of Faith & Worship	December, 2015	Randy Webster
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<p>Sunday worship services (4) and Christmas Eve Pre-service music, Christmas Eve Planning and directing choral music during Choir Director's medical absence</p> <p>Caroling with Deacons Planning for the season of Advent and Christmas Setting the Sanctuary for Advent II, III, and IV,</p>	<p>Christmas Eve and Christmas I Private practice Soloist rehearsals Pastoral care coverage during Pastor's vacation Staff meetings</p>
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Always Forgiven....A Poem by Christine Dwight

I washed my hands, but they are not clean.
 I cleaned up my speech, still it deceives me.
 I have Him my heart, yet I still hold on.
 This sinful body I live in, cannot measure up to Him.
 Each morning I start and expectations are high.
 Each night I talk to the Lord and sigh.
 How I long to please Him in every way.
 To have no regrets at the end of the day.
 No matter how my day has gone.
 I know my Lord waits with open arms.

Church Happenings

PW News



February 3, 2016
At 9:45 a.m.

Co:Hostesses: Pauline Johnson at Church
Donna Siefken
Study Leader: Nancy Lazenby
Mission: CCC (bring a can)

Yum Yums

We will meet on February 18, 6:00 p.m. at Boogaloo's in Burlington.
We urge everyone to come. Call Bonnie White or Sue Carter for more information.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

JANUARY 24, 2016
AFTER WORSHIP

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 Schaffer, Sandy Smith, Pat Whitmore.

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

Treasure Chest Report

Gifts from the Treasure Chest were delivered in December. Thank you for all the gifts that filled the Treasure Chest in 2015. Your gifts give our friends in the pediatric unit something to look forward to as they get to choose a special gift from their treasure chest after they have their treatments. Some of the children pick their gift before their treatment begins and they are put to sleep, so it is waiting for them after their procedure.

A new year has begun and for many of the children nothing has changed, so please continue to bring gifts each month to be shared with a child, ages 0-18. Thank you for sharing God's love to those who need his healing touch. **Janet Calvin**



Feb. 8 Ruby McCormick
Feb. 9 Jesse McCormick
..... Kelly deKlerk
Feb. 11 Dick Wells
Feb. 12 Leona Byars
Feb. 14 Dick Fischer
Feb. 15 Marcia Bailey
..... Edie Blom
Feb. 20 Linda Cochran
Feb. 22 Mr. Shirley Webster
Feb. 25 Caleb Kunz
Feb. 27 Jay Schafer

Mission Money at Work

Janet Calvin continues to deliver our blue FPC shopping bags and emergency blankets to the Neighborhood Center, the Homeless Shelter and the Salvation Army every month. In January she delivered 10 bags and 8 emergency blankets to the Neighborhood Center; 10 bags and 8 blankets to the Salvation Army and 6 bags and 5 blankets to the Homeless Shelter.

Janet also is in charge of selecting and distributing gifts at the University of Iowa Hospital throughout the year and around the holidays.

In the adult unit, 15 patients received 3 gifts each; Christmas cookies and miniature cupcakes were delivered to the staff.

In the pediatric unit, 30 patients received 2 gifts each, from an assortment of books, blankets, stocking caps and knit headbands. Christmas cookies and miniature cupcakes were also delivered to the staff.

Three individual families, 12 total, received four gifts each.

Family A: The patient was a 14-year-old boy. He was preparing to go home after being hospitalized for almost a year. He has 2 brothers, ages 9 and 3. His mom is a single parent. He had asked for full-size bedding sheets, a shirt and an iTunes card. The gifts were purchased and wrapped. Other gifts were added: A gift card to Walmart, drinking glasses and a set of silverware for mom and gifts for the brothers.

Family B: This is a family of 4: Mom, Dad and 2 brothers, ages 14 and 2. This family lost their third son after his bone marrow transplant, due to complications. With many medical and funeral expenses, this family needs lots of God's love and strength to get through the days ahead. They were given 4 gifts each, plus an extra Walmart gift card.

Family C: The patient is a boy of 3½. His family consists of Mom, Dad and 2 brothers, ages 7 and 11½. A gift card from Walmart and gifts were given to them.

All these families need our prayers for strength and healing.

Total gifts purchased and delivered: 153. Apart from the Mission Committee's allotment of \$1,000, 2 donors gave \$25 each and wrapping paper, totes, bags, tissue paper (about \$60) were donated. Total cost spent was around \$1,300.

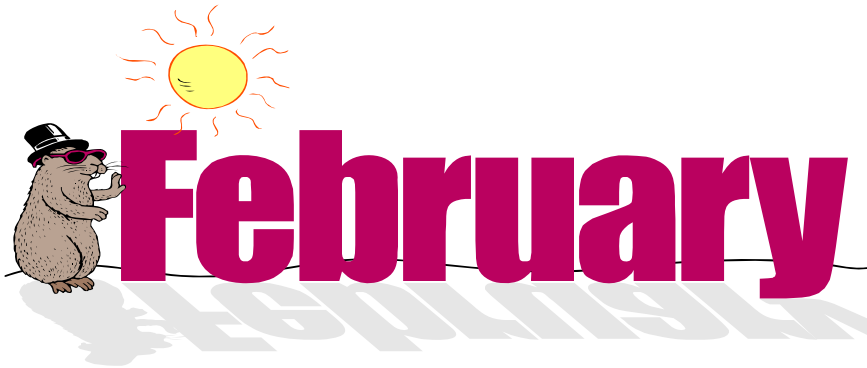
Awesome Response - Angel Tree/Cozy Tree

With love and generosity, our church family came again to the aid of children from needy families in the Burlington community this Christmas season. The Angel Tree provided 31 young people from 9 families with a warm shirt or top, long pants, shoes or boots and a "wish list" gift. With the help of Community Action, 5 children even received bikes! In a very short time frame, tags were picked from the tree, items were purchased, gifts wrapped and returned for distribution to the families.

The Cozy Tree overflowed with quality hats, gloves, mittens, sweats, socks, scarves and warm outer garments. These items were taken to a central school location and distributed by the grade school nurse on an "as need" basis.

Thank you and God bless!

Cathy Brink, Cheryl Lotz and Pat Whitmore
Angel Tree Committee



February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	2 6:30 PM Treble Clef	3 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:45 AM PW 6:00 PM Handbell Practice	4 Office Closed at noon	5 Office Closed	6
7 8:30 AM Choir rehearsal 9:00 AM Sunday School for Children 10:00 AM Worship	8 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	9	10 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Knitwits 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	11 Office Closed at noon	12 Office Closed	13
14 8:30 AM Choir rehearsal 9:00 AM Sunday School for Children 10:00 AM Worship	15 Connections Deadline Office Closed 7:00 PM Session Meeting	16 10:00 AM Presbytery Book Study 6:00 PM Deacons Meeting 6:00 PM Worship Committee	17 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Handbell Practice	18 Office Closed at noon 1:30 PM Hope Haven Birthday Party 6:00 PM Yum Yum Group	19 Office Closed	20
21 8:30 AM Choir rehearsal 9:00 AM Sunday School for Children 10:00 AM Worship/ Youth Sunday	22 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	23	24 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Handbell Practice	25 Office Closed at noon	26 Office Closed	27
28 8:30 AM Choir rehearsal 9:00 AM Sunday School for Children 10:00 AM Worship	29 10:00 AM Staff Meeting					

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