

July Connections 2016

Glimpses of Grace-Celebrating Presbyterian Women

Dear Church Family,

‘There is a time for everything, a season for every activity under heaven’, writes the Teacher in Ecclesiastes 3. We may not like what ‘time’ it is, but there are times to begin programs and times to end programs, times to organize and times to disband.

Times of disbanding may be inevitable, but that doesn’t make the disbanding any less painful. Such is the case of our Presbyterian Women. In June the women had their final circle meeting and on July 31 we will be celebrating PW and also ending it as an organization of First Presbyterian Church.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is quoted as saying, “Great is the art of the beginning, but greater is the art of ending.” Great was the beginning of Presbyterian Women, both nationwide and locally. Its predecessor organization, known here first as the Ladies Home Missionary Society, was organized January 27, 1884. By 1914 it was known as the Foreign Missionary Society and the ladies gathered for monthly meetings. Topics of discussion included India, Siam and Laos, Africa, Moslem Lands, Syria and Japan. In 1939 First Presbyterian Missionary Society continued the monthly meetings, with the general theme of *The Mission of the Church in a Changing World*.

The name was changed again, by 1942, to the Women’s Association. The purpose was to ‘promote the spirit of friendliness, to utilize the efficiency of the women, to bring into reality the joys and benefits derived from working together in a common cause, and to enlarge the understanding of the work of this church to the end that every woman shall pray, study, work and give in the four fields of Christian service—the local church, the community, the nation and the world.’ Mrs. A.B. George was president.

In 1944-45, there were at least seven circles; the study for the year was Ephesians: *What we are and have in Christ* (inspiration); *Act like it* (application). In 1953 the Women’s Association had eight circles; Mrs. W.E. Jackson was president. A year later they offered nine circles, with Mrs. Jackson again serving as president.

On the national front, in 1872 the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in North America asked women to devise some way to raise money to support women missionaries in the field. In 1875 Sarah Foster received permission to establish the first national organization in a Presbyterian denomination, the Women’s General Missionary Society. The Thank Offering began in 1888 and the Birthday Offering began in 1922, both of which continue today.

In 1930 women were ordained as ruling elders and in 1956 women were ordained as teaching elders (Ministers of Word and Sacrament) in the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. In 1978 in the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., a constitutional provision was made that both men and women could be elected elders and deacons in local congregations. In the Presbyterian Church in the United States, women were ordained ruling and teaching elders in 1964. (Con’t on p. 2)

Yes, there were several Presbyterian branches then, too. However, in 1983 the reunion between the southern and northern churches (the Presbyterian Church in the United States and the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.) occurred to become what we are today, the Presbyterian Church (USA). It took five more years for the United Presbyterian Women and the Women of the Church to unite to become the Presbyterian Women. PW incorporated in 2009.

Our local records show Presbyterian Women moderators, from 1989 to 2004, to include Dorothy Dewey, Louise Harken and Florence Adolph, Nadine Ibbotson and Donna Siefken, with most serving more than one term. From 2005 to present, Nancy Lazenby has served as moderator.

In recent years, the PW ladies have supported different missions of the church, including Come to Church with a Can, Treasure Chest, Hope Haven and the Angel Tree.

The ongoing Prayer Chain also began through PW; Janet Calvin will remain as chairperson for this ministry. The PW also coordinated and hosted the many funeral luncheons we have had in Fellowship Hall over the years; Radical Hospitality will now be helping with this vital ministry.

I hope you will join me in saying, ‘Thank you!’ to all the women who have been a part of PW over the years. You have often served behind the scenes, but the result of your ministry will be long lasting.

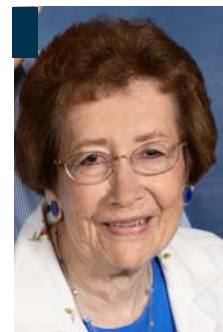
Well done, good and faithful servants!

In His service,

Deb

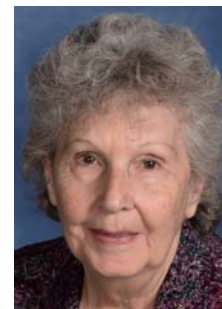
Below, are some reflections from our PW members:

Penny Rucker— I became a member of PW soon after we became members of FPC in 1963. It was a good way to meet and become acquainted with the women in the church. I later became treasurer of the group, a position I held until 2015. We supported several social welfare groups in Burlington financially each year and served meals to bereaved families. I felt it was a very worthwhile group and a place where we could share some of our experiences during our Bible studies.



Eva Ann Elmer—In the mid-to-late 60’s, I was in a morning church circle with other stay-at-home mothers. It was such a treat for us to talk to other adults once a month!! We shared children of similar ages and problems, so we could compare our “challenges” with one another and offer moral & spiritual support. I really enjoyed that time! Later, I could hardly wait to retire and get back to a supportive circle.

Janet Calvin—Presbyterian Women have supported many different missions; Come to Church with a Can, Treasure Chest, Hope Haven, The Angel Tree. I will continue to be chair person for the Prayer Chain because I feel is an important way to keep our church family connected.



(con’t on p. 3)

Nancy Lazenby—I have always been proud of PW from the time I was a newly-wed, through the raising of children, to the years I worked outside the home, to the last 15 years when I could fully participate. Sometimes I attended morning circles, sometimes afternoon and when I was working, night circles. I remember the weekly Wednesday night dinners when we helped Ada Sellers serve those wonderful minute steaks of hers and the Advent meals we cooked and served.



In recent years I began to realize the remarkable mission that is accomplished by Presbytery, Synod and National PW and I am proud to be a part of that. Thank you Presbyterian Women for supporting our causes; the funeral meals and the twice yearly request for mission money. I shall miss the first Wednesday meeting every month.



I enjoyed the good times spent in the kitchen with friends preparing meals. In the beginning we cooked meals once a month for the congregation and also for some outside groups. As a result I made some life-long friends and helped to fill the treasury for PW. We also started a program to serve meals for families following funerals. This later grew to inviting friends and as a result we moved to the church to serve the meals. This proved to be one of our most successful services.

Seven years ago I began attending the PW meetings / Bible studies of The First Presbyterian Church. The wonderful ladies there made me feel so very welcome and cared about. I've always been impressed by the amazing financial support PW has given to local organizations and to worldwide projects. This small group of ladies were dedicated to the well-being of others. Our church can be proud of the good that PW has done.



Kids Against Hunger



Trustee Report

Statement of Income & Expense May 31, 2016

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Percent of Budget
Income				
Pledge	179,254.00	71,646.00	107,608.00	40.0%
Non Pledge	21,028.00	10,445.28	10,582.72	49.7%
Investment In- come	17,700.00	3,119.68	14,580.32	17.6%
Misc Income		2535.76		
Total Income	217,982.00	87,746.72	130,235.28	40.3%
Expenses				
Personnel	145,147.00	60,205.51	84,941.49	41.5%
Youth Ministries	3,580.00	1,569.57	2,010.43	43.8%
Radical Hospital- ity	2,235.00	458.70	1,776.30	20.5%
Deacons	760.00	216.40	543.60	28.5%
Property	62,210.00	21,865.69	40,344.31	35.1%
Worship	4,050.00	691.97	3,358.03	17.1%
Total Expenses	217,982.00	85,007.84	132,974.16	39.0%
Differential		2,738.88		
Estimated Income Hanna	\$29,000.00	\$14,553.08	14,446.92	50.2%
Mission Budget	\$30,580.00	10,983.71	19,596.29	35.9%
Differential		3,569.37		

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



News-worthy Notes—Welcome New Officers



Welcome new Elder, Mike Elmer. Mike, his wife Vicki and Savana, their Golden Retriever moved back to Burlington last year. Mike has been associated with FPC for 51 years. He enjoys being a delegate for the Republican Party and is interested in helping people. He is excited to have a voice in the church as an elder. He likes going to Napoli's and is happy to be back in Burlington.

Welcome new Elder, Pauline Johnson. Pauline moved to Burlington from Craig, Alaska and joined FPC in March, 2012. She has 2 sons, Chris, his wife, Jennie and 3 grandsons, Tyler, Zach & Cody who live in Mt. Pleasant; and Jered, his wife, Erin and 2 grandsons, Jude & Simon Henry who live in St. Paul, MN. Her hobbies are reading, sewing, weaving baskets, bird-watching and enjoying her family. She presently serves on the Youth Ministries Team and is interested in children's ministries. She is excited about getting to know more members and hoping to grow the children's programs. She likes Indian and Mexican food. She loves to travel and has a great interest in missions because she grew up in India, where her father started a hospital.



Welcome new Elder, Jill Mehaffy-Nalley. Jill has been a member since 1999. She is married to Eric and has 3 children, Allison, 10 yrs. old and twins, Lily & Henry, 8 yrs. old. Jill's hobbies are camping and swimming and she likes Mexican food. She is on the Youth Ministries Team and is interested in youth activities and helping the church. A little know fact about Jill is that she was a Fulbright scholar in the Czech Republic.

Welcome Adele Coulter to your 2nd term as Deacon. Adele has 2 daughters, Alexis & Jessica. She has been a member of FPC for 20 years. She enjoys spending time with family, reading, exercising and enjoys Mexican food. She is interested in missions and children's programs and likes helping those in need. She works at Two Rivers Bank and once managed a jewelry store.



Welcome new Deacon, Vicki Elmer. Vicki is a new member at FPC, who moved to Burlington from Georgia last year with husband, Mike and Savana, the dog. Her hobbies are gardening, cooking, traveling and dancing. She wants to help who are in need and help to get them back on their feet. She is excited to be a Deacon as long as she does not have to do any public speaking. ☺ She also likes Napoli's and loves her new church family.

Welcome Ruth Francis to your 2nd term as Deacon. Ruth is married to Ted and they have two children, Allison & Craig. Ruth has been a member of FPC since 1977. She loves cats, likes to read and ride her bike (not at the same time). She is on the board of the Friends of the Library and plays in the Southeast Iowa Symphony. Her church activities include playing in the Hallelujah Handbell Choir, participating in the Sandwich Ministry and attending Women's Bible study on Wednesday morning. Ruth believes that it is important to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the life of our church. Being a Deacon brings opportunities to put that belief in action. La Tavola is a favorite restaurant and you may not know that Ruth played in a string quartet at the Governor's Mansion in Des Moines.





Welcome new Deacon, Bob Snider. Bob has been a member of FPC since 1963. His hobbies include antique shopping and collecting Beck & Melcher Pottery. He is looking forward to being an officer of the church and helping others in his position as Deacon. Gators is his favorite restaurant and he is a 9-gallon blood donor.

Welcome new Trustee, Wilma Hemphill. Wilma is married to Steve and has a son, Caleb, who attends Dakota State University. Wilma has been a member of FPC for 23 years and enjoys reading, gardening and her animals. She serves on the Mission Committee and enjoys working with the children in the Puppet Ministry. She is looking forward to being a Trustee and helping the church be a good steward of it's resources. The Great Wall is a favorite restaurant.



Welcome new Trustee, LaDonna Putnam. LaDonna is married to Gary and they have 2 sons, Ryan of Bradenton, FL and David of Davenport, IA and 2 grandchildren, Hayden and Emma.

She has been a member of FPC for as long as she can remember. Her hobbies are shopping, walking and traveling. She is looking forward to getting more involved in the working of the church and meeting people and making new friends. She enjoys going out to eat at Applebee's and Martini's. At one time LaDonna was a Home Economics teacher at Oak Street School.

Organ restoration work to begin in July

The console of our pipe organ will begin a major restoration which will begin just after the Fourth of July. The Levsen Organ Company, who have taken care of our pipe organ, will remove the console and take it to their shop. The console will return sometime in August or early September.

The organ was built in 1952 by the Aeolian-Skinner Company. Organs typically have a "combination" or "capture" system, little buttons under the keyboards which allow the organist to pre-set combinations of stops which, when the buttons are pushed, automatically change the organ's stops. This makes playing the organ, either in service or in recital, much more functional. The combination actions has been failing for quite some time, and has now become almost unreliable. As this has happened the music that Randy can play has diminished radically, and made playing Sunday services much more difficult. One of the features of the restored console will be a new computerized combination action with hundreds of levels of memory!

A second feature will be a digital memory feature allowing the organist to record all of the music for a service so that, in the event the organist has to be gone, the organ can still be "played." A third will be a "transposer" which will allow the organist to play in a different key other than the key of the piece without have to transpose it at sight. This is helpful when an anthem or solo is too high or too low, or when playing with an instrument that doesn't play in "C."

Several musical events will be planned for the autumn in celebration the console's restoration after the console is returned.

Watch for more news next month as the work progresses!



of

Calendars for June and July



19 10 am Wor-	20	21 6 pm Deacons Meeting	22	23	24 Office Closed	25
26 10 am Worship/ Communion	27 7 pm Mission Committee	28	29	30	1 Office Closed	2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office Closed	2
3 No Communion 10:00 AM Worship	4 Office Closed	5	6 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	7	8 Office Closed	9
10 10:00 AM Worship	11	12 PEO NI 12-3:00 pm	13 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Knitwits	14	15 Connections Deadline Office Closed	16
17 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Kids @ Opiekun garden	18	19	20 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	21 1:30 PM Hope Haven Birthday Party	22 Office Closed	23
24 10:00 AM Worship	25	26	27 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	28	29 Office Closed	30
31 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Honoring Presbyterian Women						

Worship Schedule

June 19; the Rev. Dr. Reynen preaching with special music by Jim French, Randy Kinney, Camille Reynen and Dr. Reynen.

June 26; Communion; *Keeping in Step with the Spirit* from Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20; Galatians 5:1, 13-25.

Pastor Deb will be on vacation for 2 weeks and then on study leave for 2 weeks. She will return to the pulpit on June 26, when we will celebrate communion for June-July. Pastor Randy will be filling in for pastoral care, along with the Deacons. If you have a concern or need, please contact the church office first; Deacon Craig Gilchrist is the Deacon contact for pastoral emergencies.

Church Happenings

PW News



Sunday, July 31 Honoring Presbyterian Women

Yum Yums

No Yum Yums in July & August.
Have a great summer.
Bonnie White & Sue Carter



Dear Church Family,

THANK YOU! For all the
'thank you's'.

I have enjoyed all the children
and the various activities. I re-
main "on call".

Sue Sattler



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, (co-moderators), Adele Coulter, (secretary),
Vicki Elmer, Ruth Francis, Craig Gilchrist, Carey
King, Pat Saldeen, Jay Schafer, Jolene Schafer, Bob
Snider, Pat Whitmore.

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

Dear FPC family,

Thank you so much all the cards and won-
derful graduation gifts! Your kindness is so
appreciated.

Right now I am interviewing and trying to
find the right job that will become my career.

Lauren Huddleston

On April 7, Treasure Chest gifts were sent to
our friends at the University of Iowa Hospital.
These gifts will help them through the treat-
ments they will have which can be painful. As
gifts are sent monthly, there is a on-going need
for gifts. Thank you for the gifts received and
for sending God's love to each child.

Janet Calvin

We want to thank everyone for the cards,
prayers, thoughts and kind words during this
difficult time.

Wilma, Steve & Caleb Hemphill



July 1.....	Joanna SchnedenBarbara Blom
July 3.....	Mary Daedlow
July 7.....	Sandy Morrison Linda Tickel
July 9.....	Jeff Huddleston
July 11.....	Eileene Buxton
July 12.....	Barbara Howard
July 13.....	Vernave Garcia
July 14.....	Janet Calvin
July 16.....	Camille Reynen
July 17.....	Mark Scott
July 18	Gary Abramsohn
July 19.....	Andy OpiekunNick Spencer
July 20.....	Toddy Gorman Daniel Kinney
July 21	Terri Huddleston
July 22.....	Whitney KinneyMarcia Stiefel
July 23.....	Cindy Murphy
July 24.....	Zach Hulett
July 25.....	Jessica Coulter
July 28.....	Curtis Blom
July 30.....	Katie French
July 31.....	Ruth Francis

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

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 websterr1@aol.com. Thank you!

