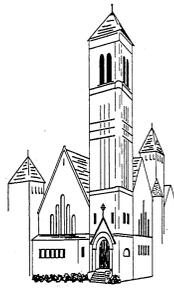


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Tower Notes

VOLUME 46

July 23, 2014

NUMBER 30

July 27, 2014

7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:00 a.m. Worship Service – Chapel
 9:00 a.m. Christian Education Hour
 9:15 a.m. NewSong Worship Service – Chapel
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary

First Presbyterian Vision and Mission Statements

VISION: As faithful followers of Jesus Christ, we seek to be an open, caring, compassionate congregation, and to bring about positive changes in our community and world.

MISSION: We celebrate, explore, and demonstrate our Christian faith in loving service.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: 1) Continue to be an active community-oriented congregation; 2) Develop a passion for discipleship and advocacy; 3) Celebrate unity of purpose with diversity in action.

SUMMER SHOWCASE PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY



The Prayer Chain Ministry offers a more confidential method of support to those in our church family who are less inclined to share personal difficulties with the entire congregation. The ministry will add the specific prayer request to their daily prayers.

Requests may be given to Lori Jensen - lori.jensen1@comcast.net or 217-429-3400, Yvonne Lewis at 217-423-8727, the church office (217-429-4195 or fpdec@comcast.net) or any member of the Prayer Chain to request prayers. Remember, these requests are kept confidential unless you request they be shared with the congregation.

Members of the Prayer Chain Ministry include **Joan Brown, Gayle Bruckner, Carol Ferry, Jean Gift, Lori Jensen, Yvonne Lewis, Susie Marshall, Bob & Sue Muschal, Verlyn Rosenberger, Harriet Sadowski, Sue Weinstein and Joan Winick.**

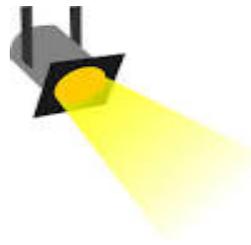
If you feel led to be part of this ministry, please let Yvonne or Lori know.



vacation BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is in full swing this week at First United Methodist Church with Ava and Lily Brown from First Pres in attendance.

A huge THANK YOU to those who donated supplies or made a monetary donation.



Session Meeting Highlights

The Session met for its stated meeting on July 21, 2014. During the meeting, the Session voted to approve the following recommendations:

- That Mac Moore and Jerry Redford be named co-chairs of the Stewardship Committee for 2014.
- That Carol Wood be named commissioner to the Decatur Regional Meeting on Tuesday, September 30 at Pana's United in Faith Church.
- That a bid of \$74,731 from the Henson Robinson Co. of Springfield for the replacement of two boilers be accepted.

DECATUR CELEBRATION PARK at 1st pres



The youth are once again renting parking spaces for the Decatur Celebration on August 1, 2 and 3. Spaces can be rented for \$5

for a one-time visit or \$20 for the entire weekend. The weekend pass allows you to come and go as often as you want and you are guaranteed a parking space when you come. You can also transfer the parking pass to a family member or friend to use when you are not using it. The lot will be monitored on Friday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

The youth are especially looking for VOLUNTEERS to help monitor the lot for a 2-hour shift.

You can either contact Christl in the church office or Pam Neeley at 413-8087.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY
PRAYER CONCERNS:

E-mail articles to:
amcelder@comcast.net

Cindy Wene's mother, Judy Grieve, is receiving chemotherapy.

John Meyer is home in hospice care.

Ray and Lillian Landon's daughter-in-law, Connie Landon had cancer surgery on July 22 in Virginia to remove a tumor on her bile duct and gall bladder.

Lee Bennett is having heart surgery on July 24 at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

Richard Sublett is back home and doing well after the removal of a kidney stone.

David Williams was released from the hospital on Saturday, July 19, after hip replacement surgery. He is doing well and will be staying with his daughter, Lori Mize during his recovery.

Congratulations to Andrew and Kristin Young on the birth of their son Matthew George, born Sunday, July 20, 2014. The family is doing well. Proud grandparents are Debbie and Dwain VanZant.

Our sympathy is extended to Andrew and Claire (Nicholson) Taylor. Andrew's father, Howard Taylor, 64, of Oregon died July 20, 2014.

New Phone Number

Mike Lowe's new home number is (217) 706-5474

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for all the cards and notes of congratulation concerning Miley's and my 55th wedding anniversary. Also, thank you for all the cards, care, concern and prayers following my recent knee replacement surgery. A special thank you to Bill Keagle for his hospital visits and to the Deacons for a wonderful meal. My recovery is going very well and I hope to be back to worship with you soon.

Sincerely,
Janet Palmer

11 PRACTICAL WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUNG ADULTS

2- **Comomunicate relevance**

(what's the point?) –

Young adults want specific examples of impact before committing. Talk about giving impact (such as the new community garden) during worship and one-on-one conversations; broadcast it through social media.

Presbyterian Today SPECIAL ISSUE
Young Adults-their vision for the church

VERY GOOD



July 27 SUNDAY GREETERS

Before Service

#1 Lois Wells

#4 Ruth Warfield

#2 Cheryl Thompson

#5 Bob Bullock

#3 Norm & Lori Jensen

Media Tech

Norm Jensen

Coffee & Fellowship

Volunteers

Special Summer Music

Lori Jensen, Kay Mason, and Susan Moore

CHURCH SCHOOL HOUR

July 27, 2014

9:00 Everyday Issues – For 4 more weeks, the class will show films from the A&E series "Mysteries of the Bible". This coming Sunday we will view "Herod The Great" -The man we know as King Herod the Great is mentioned only briefly in the Bible. Nearly a century after his death, Josephus, a first century historian, described him as a king who "stole the throne, ruled like a tiger, and died like a dog," having murdered most of his family. Who was Herod really?

9:00 Youth Class – Junior- and Senior-high class is led by Chris Lawton.

9:00 and 10:30 Children's Classes – *summer break*

LITTLE THEATRE
ON THE SQUARE
AUGUST EVENT

Summer and it's time for a Theater trip again! Let's go to Sullivan's Little Theater on the Square to see the **2 p.m.**

performance of 'Legally Blonde'

on Sunday, August 10. We might carpool or use the church van and leave right after the

10:30 service. (around 11:30 a.m.) We'll lunch at the Royal International Buffet on East 121 near Mt. Zion before heading down to Sullivan for the musical. By the way, Doug Nicholson's daughter, Claire Taylor, will be performing with the orchestra!



SYNOPSIS: Elle Woods' life is turned upside-down when her boyfriend dumps her so he can start getting serious about his life and attend Harvard Law School. Determined to get him back, Elle uses her charm to get into Harvard too. Family friendly fun!

Please order your own tickets (\$37.50 includes tax and fees) by calling 217-728-7375 and tell them if you have a coupon (BUY 1 TICKET @ FULL PRICE-GET 1/2 OFF THE SECOND TICKET) These coupons are available in the church office.

You can't use the coupon if you order online at www.thelittletheatre.org since there is no means to process it.

Contact Cathy (cathyforce@comcast.net or 521-7131) or the church office (fpdec@comcast.net or 429-4195) by August 1, 2014 with any questions or to RSVP that you want to go in the van which comfortably holds 10 people.(first come first served).

summer Music
String Band

July 23 (Wed.) – 5:30 PM: The Reserve at Lakeview, 1035 South Main

Aug. 20 (Wed) – 10:00 AM: McKinley Care Center, 500 W. McKinley Ave.

Aug. 21(Thurs.) – 2:00 PM: Primrose Retirement Community, 1145 Arbor Dr.

Sept. 11 (Thurs.) – TBD: Oxford House, 2700 W. Monroe



WORSHIP SERVICES

July 27, 2014

7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rev. Bill Keagle, preaching

Mac Moore, 8:00 a.m. lay leader

Beth Bachtold, 10:30 a.m. lay leader

Sermon

"A Tale of Two Brothers"

Scripture

Luke 15:11-32

A Parable of the Kingdom

Special Music

Lori Jensen, Kay Mason, Susan Moore

Guest Organist

Rick Koetje

Flowers

The flowers this Sunday are given by John & Jane Oaster in honor of their wedding anniversary.

July Ushers

Myung Kim, captain

Joli Cirks

Debbie and Ralph Czerwinski

Carol Ferry-sub

Nancy and Tom Force

Ellen Noblitt-sub

Charlie Platt-sub

Trish Spinner

David Williams

Worship Aids

Children's bulletins, large-print Bibles, and hearing amplifiers are available for use during worship. Ask any usher.

Men's Bible Study



The 7 a.m. every Thursday morning Bible study welcome

all men to join them as they continue to study the New Testament.

Paul, René, Charles, Dick, Ray & George



1ST PRES STRING BAND PRACTICE

Every Wednesday at 5:00PM

– All levels welcome. Call Doug at 521-1314.

AVAILABLE

FLOWER DATES:

August 24 & October 12

Purchase Sunday flowers in memory of your loved ones- 429-4195 or fpdec@comcast.net.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR HOLY COW?



We've had a 34-page analysis and a two-hour explanation of the results of the Holy Cow survey of First Pres, and it's time for the next questions: "What does it all mean?" and "Now, what should we be doing?"

The next concrete step is another meeting of church leaders on Tuesday, August 5, to talk about the future, based on this perceptive study.

It is no surprise that the 134 survey respondents agreed on the top 3 priorities (where we would like additional energy placed to expand or improve our ministries):

1. Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
2. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of our church.
3. Provide opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life.

Our overall satisfaction level seems high enough; our energy level is a little below average (maybe because 60% of the survey responders were 65 years of age or older, and only 4% were under age 35); and attendance levels and activities for meaningful church participation were certainly okay - although maybe less enthusiastic than we'd like. These are some of the "key indicators" that show up in our survey.

There were different priorities listed - one through 17 - by the seven different groupings in our congregation (separated by age, frequency of attendance and participation, for example). However, they are consistent and the same thing can be said about theological perspective, flexibility, hospitality, morale and conflict management, which are some of the "performance indices" found in the study. Others are educational engagement, readiness for ministry, and worship and music.

We were pretty much in agreement across the age and experience spectrum on critical abilities of a new pastor and our responses to questions about stewardship.

But, there are areas where the Presbytery team pointed out we can change perceptions and ways we can regain a significant level of congregational vitality and health. There are areas where "fence-sitters" can be changed into strong supporters and cheerleaders, in their opinions.

We can't mark time while waiting for permanent pastoral leadership, as our current worship leaders have pointed out. We need to keep involved and active in mission, worship, and education together. We want to have the whole congregation vibrant and vital for our 24th pastor, whoever he or she might be.

P.S. While waiting for times when you will be invited to participate in small group conversations about Holy Cow, you can check out CDs and the Vital Signs report from the church office - and listen to the initial meeting in its entirety. Just ask Christl to put your name on the list.

Jerry Redford, chair, Administration Committee

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT CLOSET

If you are ever needing a walker, cane, wheelchair, or crutches – we have them right here at First Pres. We now have 2 regular walkers and one with a seat, several pairs of crutches, 2 four point canes and 2 regular canes, and one wheelchair. They are here for your use. Some other items are presently being used.



If you would like to check on an item, call the office or me and we will get it signed out to you.

If you have medical equipment in good condition and would like to donate it to the church, please let me know. It can be put to good use.

I thank all those who have given us their medical equipment to share with others. It has been much appreciated.

Phyllis, Parish Nurse



HANDICAP DOOR NEWS

On Tuesday, the transmitters to both the inside and outside handicap door push buttons were replaced. Both buttons work now and the door closes and opens smoothly without slamming into the outside wall.

In other DOOR NEWS, the church is aware that on occasion the double glass doors do not close properly. In order for them to close, sometimes you must depress the crash bar on the inside. There is a broken piece in the door and a company has been contacted to see about fixing or replacing the problem door.

amazon.com Smile What is AmazonSmile?

Amazon smiles upon our favorite charity!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to our favorite charitable organization: Stand up for Grace!!

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to http://smile.amazon.com/ref=smi_ge_sr_bttr1_se tch&pldnNew=1. You may also want to add a bookmark to AmazonSmile to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. If it's not already there, simply choose **STAND UP FOR GRACE** from the list of charities!!

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

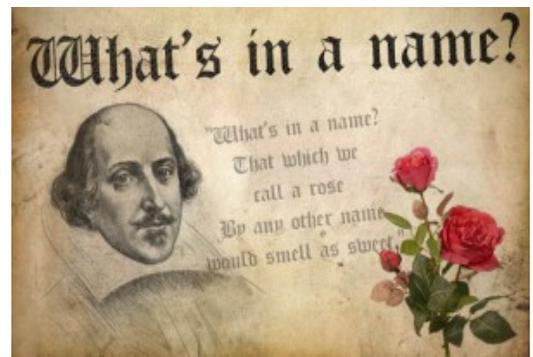
You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

Please spread the word about this program. It's an easy way to earn money for the children at By Grace and no cost to us at all!!



WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT

Thurs., July 24, 2014
The Wharf, 201 W. 1st Dr.
5:30 p.m. - R.S.V.P. 429-4195



Some time ago, a Christian magazine called "The Door" printed a list of newly formed churches. They included: The Potluck Assembly of God; the Little Bit O'Bible Fellowship; the Church of the Big P.A. System; the Short-Term Pastor Center; the Theology-Free Church; the Seldom United Church; the Church of the Perpetual Building Program; the Comfortable Pew Family Center; the Better Than the Rest Believer's Fellowship; the Church Where the Pastor's Family Runs Everything; the Two-Or-More-But-Sometimes-Less-Depending-On-Who-Shows-Up Bible Church; the Feelgood Fellowship; and the Twist-and-Shout Revival Center. This was all tongue-in-cheek, we hope.

KEMMERER VILLAGE 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic SEPTEMBER 5, 2014

At the beautiful Oak Terrace Golf Course Rte. 51 South, Pana



This September fund raiser to help care for the children of Kemmerer Village is a four-person scramble with a shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. There will be \$3000 in cash and prizes to be given away. The cost is \$75 per player that includes 18 holes with cart and lunch. Each team of four may purchase a mulligan for \$20. There is an Early Bird registration by August 11 that includes 18 holes and use of cart to be awarded to the lucky foursome whose team is drawn. Register early to take advantage of this giveaway.

SUMMER READING



Looking for something to read this summer? Want something different to watch on TV? Don't forget to look at the selection on the Gathering Room closet shelf for a variety of books and videos which relate to recently discussed church topics and to today's world in general. Some possible book choices are "Yes Lord I Have Sinned But I Have Several Excellent Excuses" by James W. Moore or "Leaving Church" by Barbara Brown Taylor or maybe "Saying Yes and Saying No" by Robert McAfee Brown. Enjoy browsing through the possibilities! Cathy & Adult Ministry