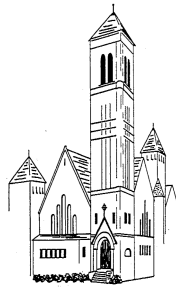


Tower Notes (USPS 634720) is published Weekly, except week of Christmas, by First Presbyterian Church, 204 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur, IL 62523. Periodical postage paid at Decatur, IL. Postmaster: Send address changes to Tower Notes, 204 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur IL 62523 (217)429-4195; (217)429-4712 FAX www.firstpresdecatur.org or email: fpdec@comcast.net



Tower Notes

VOLUME 47

January 14, 2015

NUMBER 3

January 18, 2015	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Chapel
2nd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY	9:00 a.m.	Christian Education Hour
	9:15 a.m.	NewSong Worship Service – Chapel
	10:15 a.m.	Chapel Class
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Sanctuary; Children's Church School – LL

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.

STOCK THE FREEZER



Our first Sunday in 2015 to provide the meal at Good Samaritan Inn is February 1. Cookies will be needed for that meal. Don't have time to bake?

You may also donate pre-wrapped treats such as Little Debbie Nutty Bars, Oatmeal Pies, etc. Please put any cookie donations in the kitchen freezer by Friday, January 23. You may also bring your donations on Sunday morning, January 25, as we will be bagging cookies in the Gathering Room between services. Remember, we are providing dessert for 300 people. Your help is always appreciated. Thanks!
(New Song mission group and Deacons)

GLUTEN-FREE?

If you are in need of a gluten-free option for communion bread, please notify the church office or Susan Moore at susanmoor@gmail.com. Thank you.

The Worship Committee

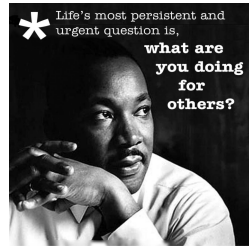
WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT



Thursday
January 22
Olive Garden
3795 North Water St.

4th Thursday - 5:30 p.m
R.S.V.P. 429-4195

BUILDING BRIDGES & BREAKING BARRIERS



This year the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. event will feature a luncheon and Freedom March. Guest speaker at the luncheon will be Jesse White, Secretary of State. The luncheon will be

held on Saturday, January 17, 2015, at 12:00 p.m. at The Decatur Club. Doors open at 11:15 a.m. The tables at the banquet are set up to seat 10 individuals, and the cost for a table is \$300.

Peacemaking is sponsoring a table and three tickets are still available in the church office for \$30 each. Tickets will not be sold at the door on the day of the luncheon.

A Freedom March is set for Monday, January 19. The march commences at noon from two separate locations at opposite ends of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive--Mueller Park and Hess Park/Harris School.

Annual Reports

The church's annual report will be available a week early for you to read before the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2015, at the close of the 10:30 service.

The reports will be on a table this Sunday in the Gathering Room. Please bring it with you to the annual meeting where we will review the Annual Report together, remember 2014 and look ahead to our ministry in 2015. All members are encouraged to attend.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER CONCERNS:

E-mail concerns to:
amcelder@comcast.net

John Meyer is home in hospice care.

Charlie Davidson

Jim Kelly had successful heart surgery on January 12, 2015, at Carle Hospital.

Bob and Marie McNabb's daughter and her husband's home in Bement burned today. It is a total loss. Kathy and David Price were not at home, so are safe.

CONGRATULATIONS

Carter Joseph, son of Nick and Kelly Campanile and grandson of Connie and Jim May, was born January 4, 2015, in Frankfort, IL.

THANK YOU TO THE CONGREGATION

Thank you for the support you always provide to the church and the friendships you offer to the staff. You are a terrific congregation. We appreciate you.

First Pres Staff E-mails

John S. Kay - johnkay003@gmail.com
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Phyllis McPherron - pkmcpherron@gmail.com
Doug Nicholson - dougnicholson2@gmail.com
Christl Smalley - fpdec@comcast.net



VERY GOOD

January 18 SUNDAY GREETERS

Before Service

#1 Volunteer #4 Volunteer
#2 Cindy Wene #5 Pat Smallwood
#3 Volunteer

Computer Tech

Fred Spannaus

Web Team

Theresa Boes

Andy Rauff

January Church School Teacher

Donna Washburn

Coffee & Fellowship

Carol Dixon and Carol Wood

Media Tech

Theresa Boes

CHURCH SCHOOL HOUR

January 18, 2014

9:00 Everyday Issues during Advent – Update on Adult Ministry with a time for brainstorming and questions

9:00 Present Word Bible Study: Main floor Pastor's study – Ray Landon leads the weekly Bible study. Unit II: LEARNING TO PRAY will focus on "Jesus Intercedes for Us" – Hebrews 4:14-5:10.

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

10:15 a.m. Chapel Conversation Class - This is a discussion group about the day's scriptures and sermon in the chapel. Cindy Wene is discussion leader.

10:30 a.m. Children's Church School: Lower Level

First Presbyterian Church Prayer Chain

To request prayer for someone, call any one person on the prayer chain. Contact Lori Jensen or Yvonne Lewis for further questions or information. An alternative to making a phone call is to send an email to the church at fpdec@comcast.net and/or lori.jensen1@comcast.net.

Your prayer chain people who pray for you are compassionate and caring. We do have a request for those who call in petitions for prayers: Please update Yvonne Lewis or Lori Jensen following your initial request within two weeks, so we can all pray specifically and intelligently.

Joan Brown	877-0880
Gayle Bruckner	877-4116
Marty Cushman	433-0526
Carol Ferry	422-0964
Jean Gift	428-1698
Lori Jensen	429-3400
Yvonne Lewis	423-8727
Susan Marshall	422-0824
Bob and Sue Muschal	454-0005
Verlyn Rosenberger	877-4789
Harriet Sadowski	428-5607
Sue Weinstein	454-7819
Joan Winick	428-5437

Babes program

How would you like to help in the Decatur public schools by becoming a BABES volunteer? Puppets are used by volunteers to present short skits to help children with problems affecting their lives, such as abuse, violence, and bullying. Several volunteers could not continue the program in 2014 because of moving, health reasons and personal issues. Sandy Laesch, BABES Program Co-ordinator could really use your help. Contact her if you are interested in making a difference in a child's life. Call Sandy at 428-6616, ext. 2244 or email slaesch@doveinc.org.

JANUARY NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

Across the nation the need for blood donations is being emphasized. There was an article last week in the Herald and Review about January being a low donor month. The Health Ministry Team was hoping to help this situation by having a blood drive in February. However, the local Red Cross is not able to schedule us until April (due to many new staff needing training).



One thing the Red Cross does ask us to do is conduct an Interest Survey. In the next few weeks, we will be asking for people to sign the survey if you are interested in donating blood. We need 25–30 people to sign the survey in order to have a blood drive here at First Presbyterian Church. It does not mean you are definitely committed, but they want to know that the interest is enough to sponsor a blood drive. We will have the survey in the Gathering Room on Sunday mornings and at the church office during the week. Please sign up if you are part of the 38% of Americans who are eligible to give blood. Thank you,
Phyllis, Parish Nurse



WORSHIP SERVICES

January 18, 2015

2nd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Rev. John Kay, preaching

Marty Cushman, 8:00 a.m. lay leader

Pam Neeley, 9:15 a.m. service leader

Rick Koetje, 10:30 a.m. lay leader

Sermon

"The Light"

Scripture

I Samuel 3:1-10 & John 1:43-51

Flowers on January 18

We still have this date open.

January 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.



**AVAILABLE
FLOWER
DATES:
Feb. 8**

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



Newsletter Volunteer, Please

We need another volunteer for the month

of **February**. You would collate a two-page folded newsletter and put address labels on them. The job takes about an hour and a half with a team of three (Betsy Tietz, Irene Huff and you!). The day would be Wednesday morning from about 8:30 to 10:00, and we would like to count on you every year. If you want to try it out before you commit, then that is fine too. Thank you for responding. – 429-4195.

SOUPER BOWL of CARING

gears up for 26th year



On Sunday, February 1, the youth will be collecting for the Souper Bowl. They will be donating the proceeds to Good Samaritan Inn. Please give generously. Together, we can make a difference.



on Jan. 25!

Do the Right Thing, Spike Lee's highly acclaimed 1986 film, is the *Just Flick's* bonus showing for January. The snack food will be on the table, the weather will be better (we hope!), and the film poised in the DVD player at 6 p.m. on Sunday evening, January 25, at First Presbyterian Church.

We are in for a treat, as one of our local film experts, John Poling, will moderate the discussion. John has led discussions for several films over the past few years, and he always brings formidable wit and insight to the conversation.

Controversial when it was released, its theme is as current as Ferguson, Missouri. Instead of citing a variety of critics, we will just give you this excerpt from a Gavin Edwards' essay in the *Rolling Stone* of June 20, 2014:

Twenty-five years ago this month, Spike Lee released his third feature film and, unarguably, his greatest joint: *Do the Right Thing*, the story of tensions between the local residents and an Italian-American family in the black neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn, on the hottest day of the summer. The film was a trenchant exploration of the racial politics of New York City at the time, from incendiary trash-talking to police violence and ensuing riots.

It was also a gripping human drama with an amazing ensemble cast, from veterans like Ossie Davis and the late Ruby Dee to first-timers like Martin Lawrence and Rosie Perez (who not only stars in the movie, but kicks it off with an unforgettable dance routine to Public Enemy's "Fight the Power"). Also on board: Danny Aiello, John Turturro, Giancarlo Esposito, Samuel L. Jackson, Bill Nunn, Robin Harris, and Lee himself as the pizza-delivering, trashcan-throwing Mookie. *Do the Right Thing* stands up today as a piece of art, as a milestone in African-American cinema, and as the movie that Barack and Michelle Obama saw on their first date. When Obama related that story to Lee, the director told the President, "Good thing you didn't choose *Driving Miss Daisy*."

Simply put: You do NOT want to miss this one. Be aware that it earned its R-rating for nudity, strong language, violence, and adult situations. Running time is 125 minutes.



APCE Annual Event February 4-7, 2015 Baltimore, MD

Pastors, elders, teachers, and educators are encouraged to attend the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) Annual Event in Baltimore on February 4-7, 2015. The theme this year, "Fear Not", will address the paralyzing fear of church leadership to address the changes that are all around us. Workshop leaders will offer ideas and practical methodologies for churches of every size and shape. Learn how you can teach and preach an ancient story for a new generation of believers. For further event information, check out www.apcenet.org/2015-annual-event.html. You may apply for the Pastoral Support and Enrichment grant available through the Presbytery. We have an application in the church office, but questions would be directed to the Presbytery - 423.1396.

NOT ABLE TO MAKE SUNDAY'S SERVICE

You can always go to our website: www.firstpresdecatour.org to hear Sunday's sermon. It usually takes a couple of days for the most recent one to be downloaded.



Please remember our members, friends, and relatives in retirement communities and assisted living facilities:

- Breeze Park Senior Care Center in St. Charles, Missouri:** Ray Reschetz
- Fair Havens Christian Home:** Charles Davidson
- The Glenwood:** Mary Elizabeth Platt
- Heartland:** John Winick
- Hickory Point Christian Village:** Louise Bear, Esther Grissom
- Imboden Creek Living Center:** Norma Stephens, Jean Peak
- Primrose Retirement Community:** Julia Bright, Festus Paul
- Tanglewood Village:** Ruth Smith
- The Willows of Hamburg in Lexington, Kentucky:** Joanne Sly
- Wesley Willows in Rockford, Illinois:** Maxine Mussulman



RECYCLING REMINDER

- If you bring recyclables to the church:
- Please separate cans and plastic bottles- and place in marked containers
 - We can return aluminum cans for cash, which is returned to the church
 - Plastic bottles are recycled as a service only to those without recycling at home
 - Please rinse cans and bottles- especially those containing milk products
 - Please do NOT crush cans and bottles- per Decatur Recycles
 - Plastic accepted- #'s 1,2,3,4,5,7. NO #6 and no foam products, or no LIDS

Remember: Plastic water bottles can and should be reused to cut down on the accumulation of plastic!!!! Consider a reusable water bottle.

Thank You. Peacemaking Committee



Millikin Collegiate Chorale 2015 Tour Finalé Concert Sunday, January 18, 7:30pm

This choir is an upper-class, select performing ensemble. They tackle music from classical repertoire as well as newly composed pieces. Besides participating in Vespers every year, they tour throughout the Midwest, singing at high schools and churches. You will enjoy.

Make a Commitment in 2015 to Help

Big Brothers-Big Sisters is seeking mentors to work with at-risk youth in both community and school settings. Meet yours one day a week either in school or in the community. Dates and times for visits are flexible with your schedule. You will help a child gain valuable social skills and grow self-confidence. Call 428-4240.

Dove's Clothing Room at Prairie Avenue Christian Church at 2201 E. Prairie Ave. needs donations of clothes and volunteer help once or twice a month. Call RSVP at 428-6616. They have served 905 children in the last three months with warm clothing and new socks and underwear.