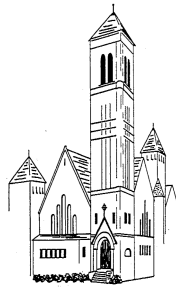


Tower Notes (USPS 634720) is published Weekly, except week of Christmas, by First Presbyterian Church, 204 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur, IL 62523. Periodical postage paid at Decatur, IL. Postmaster: Send address changes to Tower Notes, 204 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur IL 62523 (217)429-4195; (217)429-4712 FAX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



Tower Notes

VOLUME 47

January 21 2015

NUMBER 4

January 25, 2015	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Chapel
3rd 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.

JUST FLICKS - 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. One of our local film experts, John Poling, will moderate the discussion.

Controversial when it was released, its theme is as current as Ferguson, Missouri. The following is an 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.

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.

WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT

January 22, Thursday, 5:30 p.m.



Olive Garden, N. Water
R.S.V.P. 429-4195

Annual Reports

The church's annual reports are available in the Gathering Room for you to read before the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2015, at the close of the 10:30 service.

If you picked one up last Sunday, 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.

STOCK THE FREEZER



Our first Sunday in 2015 to provide the meal at Good Samaritan Inn is February 1. Cookies are 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)

OUR CHURCH FAMILY
PRAYER CONCERNS:

E-mail concerns to:
amcelder@comcast.net

John Meyer is home in hospice care.
Charlie Davidson
Jim Kelly is home after heart surgery.
Christl Smalley's friend's husband died in a motorcycle accident on the west side of town.

THANK YOU

Thank you for being among the many people that volunteered their hats, gloves and mittens to the Dove Inc. and the Northeast Community Fund Christmas Basket Drive. Your generous spirit helped make the season brighter for 335 families consisting of 1270 adults and children in need in our community.

We could not have done it without you opening your hearts in the true spirit of giving! Thank you again for helping to make the holidays memorable for others.

Sincerely,
Francie Johnson, Dove Community Services Director
And Christmas Basket Coordinator



On Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6:30 pm, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur, (3773 N. MacArthur Rd.) will hold "Race Conversations"-- a discussion open to anyone who would like to attend, and which will continue on future 4th Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. For questions and handouts, contact Rev. Elaine Gehrmann, egehrmann@gmail.com



A black cap was mistakenly left at church on Sunday morning, January 18, and a similar hat was taken.

Please call Norm Jensen at 412-2770 for a swap. My name should be on a small sticker inside the hat.

Norm Jensen



VERY GOOD
January 25 SUNDAY GREETERS

Before Service

- #1 Volunteer #4 Lori Jensen
- #2 Beth Bachtold #5 Bob Bullock
- #3 Volunteer

Computer Tech

Norm Jensen

Web Team

Theresa Boes
Andy Rauff

January Church School Teacher

Donna Washburn

Coffee & Fellowship

Volunteer

Media Tech

Jackie Evans

CHURCH SCHOOL HOUR

January 25, 2014

- 9:00 Everyday Issues during Advent** – Beth Bachtold leads the final discussion of 'Uppity Women of the Bible: Book of Ruth' in the dining room.
- 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 "We Pray for One Another" – James 5:13-18.
- 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

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

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
- Jane Spires 520-1884
- Sue Weinstein 454-7819
- Joan Winick 428-5437

26th SOUPER BOWL of CARING



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.



WORSHIP SERVICES

January 18, 2015

2nd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Rev. John Kay, preaching

Harriet Sadowski, 8:00 a.m. lay leader

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

Debbie Czerwinski, 10:30 a.m. lay leader

Sermon

"Good News"

Scripture

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20

Flowers

The flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of Elbert "Al" Wimmer, given by Nadine Wimmer.

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.

JANUARY NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

Due to many new staff needing training, the local Red Cross is not able to schedule us until April for a blood drive. For preparation, the Red



Cross has asked us to conduct an Interest Survey. In the next few weeks, we are 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 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

A chronology of the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement

POST-HOLIDAY HISTORY LESSON

January 15, 1929

Martin Luther King, Jr., is born in Atlanta, Georgia. In his late teens, King works a factory job alongside both whites and blacks.

1944-1948

King attends Morehouse College in Atlanta. His professors encourage a critical exploration of racial issues. King reads Thoreau's Essay on Civil Disobedience numerous times.

February 1948

At age nineteen, King is ordained and becomes assistant pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

1948 – 1951

At Crozier Theological Seminary, King engages in "a serious intellectual quest for a method to eliminate social evil," digesting various philosophies on social transformation, including Rauschenbusch, Marx, Nietzsche, Reinhold Niebuhr, and A.J. Muste. He discovers the teachings of Ghandi from which he develops a strong belief in nonviolent resistance.

1951

King begins graduate studies in systematic theology at Boston University where he is exposed to the philosophy of personalism, "the theory that the clue to the meaning of ultimate reality is found in personality." He receives his doctorate in 1955.

June 18, 1953

King marries Coretta Scott.

September 1954

King begins a pastoral position with Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

December 1, 1955

In Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks refuses to vacate her bus seat for a white man and is arrested. Parks had attended training sessions in labor and civil-rights organizing.

December 5, 1955

A bus boycott begins on the same day as Parks' trial. Several thousand gather that evening, and the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) is formed with King as president.

January 30, 1956

King's home is bombed. Addressing a crowd outside his home, King demands nonviolence.

November 13, 1956

After a year-long boycott, the U.S. Supreme court declares Montgomery and Alabama bus segregation laws unconstitutional.

January 10, 1957

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) is formed, with King as president. Montgomery is rocked by a series of bombings that night.

March 1957

The Kings travel to West Africa to celebrate Ghana's independence from British colonial rule.

May 17, 1957

King delivers his first national address, "Give Us the Ballot," in Washington, D.C.

September 20, 1958

At a book signing in Harlem, King is stabbed by a mentally ill woman.

February 1959

King travels to India for one month where he meets with many of Gandhi's followers.

April 18, 1959

King meets with Kenyan leader Tom Mboya.

A chronology of the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement

January 1960

The King family moves to Atlanta where King becomes co-pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church with his father, Martin Luther King, Sr.

February 1, 1960

Four students in Greensboro, North Carolina, refuse to leave their seats at a lunch counter when they are denied service, sparking a sit-in movement throughout the South. On February 16, King addresses the student protestors in Durham, North Carolina, imploring them to follow the moral operative of “jail, not bail,” and encouraging them to consider economic boycott.

April 17, 1960

Through the organizing efforts of Ella Baker, the longtime assistant director of SCLC, the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is established to unite the sit-in protestors.

October 19, 1960

Student protestors recruit King for a sit-in demonstration in Atlanta, where he and thirty-five others are arrested.

April 10, 1961

Under a compromise reached by business owners and the black clergy, schools and businesses in Atlanta begin to desegregate.

May 21, 1961

After suffering a series of violent attacks in Alabama, Freedom Riders on a campaign to desegregate interstate travel are addressed by King in a Montgomery church. With the church besieged by a white mob, King calls Attorney General Robert Kennedy for assistance. King begins pressuring the Kennedy's for federal civil-rights legislation.

September 22, 1961

The Interstate Commerce Commission mandates that all interstate transportation be desegregated.

October 16, 1961

King meets with President Kennedy and asks him to deliver a second Emancipation Proclamation.

December 1961

King begins a lengthy campaign in Albany, Georgia, to challenge the city's refusal to comply with the integration order. The campaign is ultimately unsuccessful.

April 1963

While in jail during a campaign to integrate Birmingham, Alabama, King writes “A Letter from Birmingham Jail” chastising liberal white clergy for their passive stance against segregation. For several months, the campaign in Birmingham includes massive civil disobedience and severe measures by city police against protestors, including high-pressure for hoses, clubs, and dogs. Several bombings occur, including at the hotel where King had been staying.

August 28, 1963

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom uses the momentum of Birmingham to move the power of mass resistance to the national stage. King delivers his “I Have a Dream” speech.

September 15, 1963

Four young girls are killed in the bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham.

January 17, 1964

President Lyndon Johnson meets with King to seek support for his “War on Poverty” initiative.

May – July 1964

King leads an effort to integrate St. Augustine, Florida. One day before Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964, St. Augustine business leaders hammer out an agreement to comply with the new law.

July 1964

With widespread integration compliance in Alabama, King begins a tour of Mississippi where the Civil Rights Act is widely ignored.

December 10, 1964

King receives the Nobel Peace Prize.

January 2, 1965

At a mass meeting in Selma, Alabama, King introduces SCLC's plans for a voter drive. On March 3, while attempting to march from Selma to Montgomery, civil rights advocates are beaten at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma.

August 1965

President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act. California's Proposition 13, seeking to block the fair housing component of the Civil Rights Act, creates a feeling of despair and injustice among the urban black population. Rioting breaks out in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles, leaving dozens dead and hundreds injured. King travels to Watts where he questions the effectiveness of violence.

January 1966

King moves to Chicago's South Side where he develops Operation Breadbasket to address urban economic injustice. The campaign increases black employment, business opportunities, and housing rehabilitation while strengthening black financial institutions.

June 6, 1966

In a show of unity, King, Floyd McKissick of the Congress of Racial Equality, and Stokely Carmichael of SNCC resume James Meredith's “March Against Fear” from Memphis, Tennessee, to Jackson, Mississippi, after Meredith is shot and wounded.

April 4, 1967

At Riverside Church in New York City, King denounces U.S. military action in Vietnam. Subsequently, he is harshly criticized in the media and by colleagues in the civil rights movement.

November 1967

King envisions a Poor People's Campaign—poor people camping out enmasse in Washington to dramatize the need for a redirection of national priorities and resources.

April 4, 1968

King is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, where he is helping to organize striking sanitation workers.

1998

The King family, after unsuccessfully petitioning President Clinton to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to explore the facts behind King's killing, files a wrongful-death suit. In December 1999, a twelve-person, mixed-race circuit court jury finds that Martin Luther King, Jr., was “murdered by an intricate plot that included government agencies.”