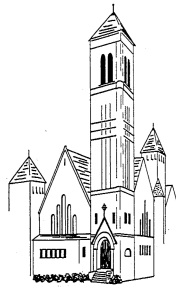


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Tower Notes

VOLUME 47

January 28, 2015

NUMBER 5

February 1, 2015	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Chapel
4th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY	9:00 a.m.	Christian Education Hour
COMMUNION SUNDAY	9:15 a.m.	NewSong Worship Service – Chapel
	10:15 a.m.	Chapel Class – No class Feb. 1
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Sanctuary; Children's Church School – LL
February 4, 2015	6:15 p.m.	Taizé Service – Chapel

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.



LENTEN CLASSES & SOUP SUPPERS

FEBRUARY 18 THROUGH THE END OF MARCH

This year's Lenten season will focus on world religions which should help us better understand people, cultures and other faith communities. Classes will be offered from Ash Wednesday till Palm Sunday at 9 a.m. Sunday mornings, 7 p.m. Tuesday evenings, and 7 p.m. Wednesdays.

Bill Keagle will offer a 6-week discussion class "Understanding World Religions", beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. The same class will be offered on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m., beginning Feb. 22. Watch Tower Notes for more details.

Miley Palmer will lead a weekly book study at 7 p.m. Tuesdays from Feb. 24 to Mar. 31. We will use the book "What Christians Can Learn from Other Religions" by J. Philip Wogaman. A well-known author of more than 20 books, mostly on social ethics, he is a retired professor of Christian Ethics and Past President of the Interfaith Alliance. In the latter post, he spent much time with world leaders of other religions, and so comes to this book with an unusual openness to the lessons various faiths can offer us. The book is available from our church office for \$7.50.

Weekly Wednesday night Soup Suppers will be scheduled 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the dining room beginning Ash Wednesday prior to the class or choir. Several committees will again provide a variety of soups to go with sandwiches and desserts. Please sign up for the suppers in the Gathering Room or call the church office (429-4195) by Friday, Feb. 13th so food can be ordered. (\$5 person/\$15 family). Classes and meals are open to the public with meal reservations made a week in advance. Mark your calendars now to be a part of this Lenten group which combines Christian Education with thoughtful discussion, delicious food and great fellowship.

New year – New friends



TAPAS HOURS COMING UP--This is a great way to relax and enjoy getting to know your church family.

As a guest you bring a Tapas(hors d'oeuvre) of your choice and sample the choices of others. As a host you open your home and provide beverages and seating for 6 to 10 guests. Sign up as a guest once a month and choose a weekend of one month when you might be able to host. The colorful sign-up board is waiting in the Gathering Room with Feb., March, and April posted--later May and maybe June will appear. More info-Judy Batson, 422-8319, batsongj@sbcglobal.net

26th SOUPER BOWL of CARING



On Sunday, February 1, the youth will be collecting for the Souper Bowl. They are donating the proceeds to Good Samaritan Inn. Please give

generously. Together, we can make a difference.

1st PRES PROVIDES



Our first Sunday in 2015 to provide the meal at Good Samaritan Inn is February 1. Thank you for all your cookie donations. You are appreciated. (New Song mission group and Deacons)

Also, on February 5, 2015, volunteers from First Pres prepare and serve at Good Samaritan Inn. Hours are 9-1 p.m. If you are free, come to 920 N. Union Street.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER CONCERNS:

E-mail concerns to:
amcelder@comcast.net

Charlie Davidson
Robin (wife Laura) Roberts is at Decatur Memorial Hospital.
Our sympathy is extended to Carolyn Meyer and her family on the death of her husband, John Meyer.

In Memoriam

John (Jack) Richard Meyer
January 4, 1931 - January 25, 2015

Uphold us now, O Lord, as we entrust him to your boundless love and eternal care.

THANK YOU

Pastor John Kay and the members of First Presbyterian Church,
Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl.
The love and support of your church and its congregation during this happy time in our lives means a lot to us.
Love,
Corey Donnelley and Chelsea Wilkerson
(Corey is our security guard)



Will bring you to the Movies?
The next Just Flick's film is "Witness" with Harrison Ford on Sunday, February 8. Since *Witness* takes place in an Amish community, we are offering delicious pies (and coffee and other drinks). Folks might want to eat something before they come, and then have dessert at Just Flicks. More on the film next week.



VERY GOOD February 1 SUNDAY GREETERS

Before Service

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| #1 Volunteer | #4 Volunteer |
| #2 Volunteer | #5 Wally Minnis |
| #3 Volunteer | |

Computer Tech

Andrew Taylor

Web Team

Theresa Boes

Andy Rauff

January Church School Teacher

Carol Fuller

Coffee & Fellowship

Chung Ha Kim

Media Tech

Jackie Evans

February 1 COMMUNION SERVERS

8:00 a.m. – Marty Cushman

9:15 a.m. – Richard Sublett

10:30 a.m. –

Current Elders & Deacons

Dan Austin

Sue Grieve

Liz Jones

Jody Hantel

Pixie Fennessey

Walt Lohmann

Feb. Newsletter Volunteers

Irene Huff

Betsy Tietz

Jerry and Barbara Redford

Other Elders

Ray Landon

Dale Jones

Mary Ann Platt

Charlie Platt

Denise Lohmann

Money Counters

Yvonne Lewis

Susie Marshall

CHURCH SCHOOL HOUR

February 1, 2014

9:00 Everyday Issues during Advent – Guest speaker, Ed Bacon, Director of God's Shelter of Love, will provide an update on their ministry to the homeless of Decatur and central Illinois.

9:00 Present Word Bible Study: Main floor Pastor's study – Ray Landon leads the weekly Bible study. Unit III: STEWARDSHIP FOR LIFE will focus on "Feasting and Fasting" – Daniel 1:5, 8-17; Matthew 6:16-18.

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

10:15 a.m. Chapel Conversation Class – Class will not meet this Sunday.

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

Special offer: FREE 1-year subscription to *Presbyterians Today* magazine for new subscribers!
But you must respond by this Friday, January 30!!



"Presbyterians Today is the award-winning, general-interest magazine of the Presbyterian Church

(U.S.A.). Published 10 times a year, it explores practical issues of faith and life, tells stories of Presbyterians who are living their faith and covers a wide range of church news and activities. *Presbyterians Today* features easy-to-understand articles about what Presbyterians believe, Bible study and devotional helps, and provocative commentary on the church's role in society." (from www.presbyterianmission.org) For more info on the magazine, check out <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/>.

Several people in our congregation already subscribe to *Presbyterians Today* and enjoy its upbeat, timely articles. Recent issues have been full of ideas about youth and young adult interests, new ways of doing evangelism and interesting ideas that other churches are putting into practice.

If you are a new subscriber and would like to receive a year of *Presbyterians Today* for FREE, please submit your name, mailing address and email (if applicable) to the church office **by noon on Friday, January 30.**

Central Christian Church's Sanctuary Concert Series
Sunday February 1, 4:00 p.m.
650 W. William Street

Bryan Appleby-Wineberg will play trumpet and Anita Gifford will perform a piece for piano. It will be a fun concert with a variety of musical styles represented. Students who come to this performance will have an opportunity to receive an iTunes gift card if their name is drawn from among those collected at the door. Central's pastor, Mike Karunas, played trumpet with Bryan in junior high and high school.



WORSHIP SERVICES

February 1, 2015

4th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Communion Sunday

Rev. John Kay, preaching

Sandy Peterson, 8:00 a.m. lay leader

Richard Sublett, 9:15 a.m. service leader

Lori Jensen, 10:30 a.m. lay leader

Sermon

"Authority"

Scripture

Mark 1:21-28

Flowers

The flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of Ki Kim, given by the family.

February Ushers

Myung Kim, captain

Dan Austin

Bob Bullock

Joli Cirks

Carol Ferry-sub

Jim May

Eric Nevitt-sub

Charlie Platt-sub

Pat Smallwood

David Williams

Mike Zia-sub

Worship Aids

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



AVAILABLE

FLOWER

DATE:

Feb. 8

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

CANNED AND BOXED GOODS ACCEPTED SUNDAY



First Sunday

happens

February 1!

Share your

blessings with the needy as you bring your food donations to all services for Northeast Community Fund. You may also bring food or monetary donations on Monday morning.



Also, on the first

Sunday of the

month, the

Peacemaking committee will

sell olive oil and Equal

Exchange coffee, tea and

cocoa in the Gathering Room.

Thank you for your support.

A Cordial Welcome to The Rev. Dr. Bill Keagle

as Parish Associate for Adult Education



In many congregations, ordained pastors who are retired or employed in non-parish settings are invited to fulfill particular tasks as Parish Associates. Normally this designation is without compensation, but may have a position description to reflect areas of intended ministry.

In recent weeks Bill Keagle has retired from Millikin University. While he and Barbara are interested in travel and spending more time with family, he has also expressed an interest in providing additional support for our Adult Education. In fact, he has agreed to teach a class on World Religions throughout the Lenten Season.

Therefore, the Session has joined me in inviting Bill to become our Parish Associate for Adult Education. It gives me considerable satisfaction to report that he has agreed to accept this new position and is eager to offer his considerable gifts and skills to our educational program. Please join me in welcoming Bill as we look forward to an exciting range of new educational offerings.

Peace and joy,

John

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session met on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 7 p.m. The 2015 budget was approved as presented, and Elmer Turner, treasurer and chair of the finance committee, noted that the last of the 2014 financial business was almost complete.

The Session approved the recommendation of the Administration Committee to invite Rev. Dr. Bill Keagle to become Parish Associate for Adult Education, effective immediately. During Lent, Dr. Keagle will present Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes on world religions.

Lay Ministry Leader Cathy Force reported other opportunities for fellowship and education during Lent: soup suppers on Wednesday nights, and a Tuesday evening book study with Rev. Miley Palmer. In addition, an Ash Wednesday service will be offered on February 18, similar to the contemplative Taizé service held the first Wednesday of each month.

In other new business, the Session voted to table a recommendation to remove the remaining three boilers and replace them with new hot water boilers and all associated equipment. The decision on the new boilers will wait until the Facilities committee and Session hear the results of an engineering assessment, in conjunction with an upcoming, comprehensive building assessment completed by BLDD.

Session committee representatives reported on their work in December and January. The Nominating committee reported several individuals have agreed to continue to serve a consecutive term on the committee; the names of these individuals will be reported and placed into nomination at the January 25 Annual Meeting. Susan Moore was elected to represent the church at the February 19 Presbytery meeting in Effingham.

The Session will meet again on Monday, February 16 at 7 p.m.

February Birthdays!



- Blair Dunn – 1
- Jill Williams – 1
- Jeannie Rade – 3
- Marge Wollrab – 3
- Debbie Patterson – 4
- Nan Williams – 4
- Beth Smith – 6
- Esther Grissom – 7
- Barbara Hostetler – 7
- Gail Moore – 8
- Holly Oaster – 8
- Ryan Holler – 9
- Ray Landon – 9
- Norm Jensen – 11
- Jon Locke – 11
- Connie Requarth – 12
- Craig Mandernach – 14
- Abbey Netterville – 14
- Dick Ferry – 15
- Donald Wachter – 16
- Rob Eytchison – 17
- Eric Mason – 18
- Kyle Mason – 18
- JoAnn Franklin – 19
- Brenda Delaney – 22
- Susan Grieve – 22
- Dan Austin – 24
- Judy Blankenship – 24
- Sierra Falk – 24
- Mary Ann Grohne – 26
- Earline Wisher – 28

**Did we forget someone?
Please let us know!
Call or e-mail the office!**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h2>February 2015</h2>						
			C – Chapel CR - Choir Room DR – Dining Room GR – Gathering Room	L – Library MR– Music Room S – Sanctuary YR – Youth Room	"February, when the days of winter seem endless and no amount of wistful recollecting can bring back any air of summer." - Shirley Jackson, <i>Raising Demons</i>	
1 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Souper Bowl of Caring 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Serving at Good Sam 9:00am Church School 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:30am Worship – Sanctuary 10:30am Church School 4:00pm Serendipity – PO	2 (7am-AA) 8:30am Money Counters 4:45pm Facilities Mtg. – L 5:30pm Children's Min.- CCR 6:00pm Peacemaking Mtg.-GR 6:30pm Mission Mtg. – DR 7:00pm Worship Mtg. – L "I'm a little groundhog, it's my day. Wake and stretch, go out and play."	3 (7am-AA) 10:30am Staff Meeting – L 5:15pm Tower Ringers	4 (7am-AA) 8:30am Tower Notes Folders-L 9:30am Parish Visitors-GR 10:45am Backpack Assembly-L 1:30pm Worship Planning - L 5:15pm Church St. Bells 6:15pm Taizé Service – C 6:30pm Tenor & Bass 7:00pm Choir Practice	5 (7am-AA) 9:00 am Serving at Good Sam 6:30pm PNC Meeting - GR	6 (7am-AA) 12:00pm Session Reports Due	7 (7am-AA)
8 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Church School 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:15am Chapel Class 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Church School 11:45am Deacon's Meeting - DR 4:00pm Serendipity – PO 6:00pm Just Flicks- <i>Witness</i> -at CCC	9 (7am-AA) 8:30am Money Counters 1:00pm Pink Smoke – C 5:00pm Beta Pi DKG - DR	10 (7am-AA) 10:30am Staff Meeting – L 5:15pm Tower Ringers 6:30 p.m. Finance Meeting - L	11 (7am-AA) 8:30am Tower Notes Folders-L 10:45am Backpack Assembly-L 1:30pm Worship Planning - L 2:30pm Caregiver's Support-C 4:00pm Health Ministry - L 5:30pm Administration Mtg - L 5:15pm Church St. Bells 6:30pm Tenor & Bass 7:00pm Choir Practice	12 (7am-AA) 9:30am Health Min. whiteboard – GR 10:3pm SOLT – Youth Room (Synod of Lincoln Trails) 10:00am Presbytery Mtg. - Effingham 6:30pm PNC Meeting - GR	13 (7am-AA)	14 (7am-AA) St. Valentine's Day
15 Transfiguration of the Lord 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Church School 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:15am Chapel Class 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Church School 4:00pm Serendipity – PO	16 (7am-AA) 8:30am Money Counters 10:30am BC PEO Lunch - DR 5:30pm Adult Ministry - L 7:00pm Session – GR 	17 (7am-AA) 10:30am Staff Meeting – L 5:15pm Tower Ringers	18 (7am-AA) Ash Wednesday 8:30am Tower Notes Folders-L 10:45am Backpack Assembly-L 1:30pm Worship Planning - L 5:15pm Church St. Bells 5:30pm Lent Soup Supper-DR 6:15pm Ash Wednesday Taizé Service – Chapel 6:30pm Tenor & Bass 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Understanding World Religions w/Bill Keagle - DR	19 (7am-AA) 6:30pm PNC Meeting - GR	20 (7am-AA) 11:30am Catholic Charities Board Meeting – Dining Room	21 (7am-AA) 8:30-3pm First Lutheran Staff Retreat - DR
22 1st Sunday of Lent 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Church School 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:15am Chapel Class 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Church School 4:00pm Serendipity – PO	23 (7am-AA) 8:30am Money Counters 1:00pm Pink Smoke – C 5:30pm – Evang/Memb mtg - L	24 (7am-AA) 10:30am Staff Meeting – L 5:15pm Tower Ringers 7:00pm Tues. with Miley–GR	25 (7am-AA) 8:30am Tower Notes Folders-L 10:00am Prayer Shawl – C 10:45am Backpack Assembly-L 1:30pm Worship Planning - L 2:30pm Caregiver's Support-C 5:15pm Church St. Bells 5:30pm Lent Soup Supper-DR 6:30pm Tenor & Bass 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Understanding World Religions w/Bill Keagle – DR	26 (7am-AA) 5:30pm Women's Night Out at Fuji 6:30pm PNC Meeting - GR	27 (7am-AA) "February is merely as long as is needed to pass the time until March." - Dr. J. R. Stockton	28 (7am-AA)