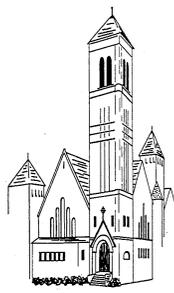


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# Tower Notes

VOLUME 47

January 7, 2014

NUMBER 2

January 11, 2015	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Chapel
BAPTISM OF THE LORD	9:00 a.m.	Christian Education Hour
Ordination and Installation	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)

### Books will close soon

If you are running behind in your pledge, now is the time to make it up. And if you did not pledge, but would like to help with the church's deficit, we would appreciate your donation. Prayerfully, we can finish out 2014 in the black.

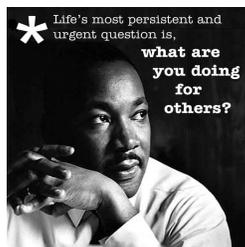
## WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT



Thursday  
January 22  
Olive Garden  
3795 North Water St.

4<sup>th</sup> 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 tickets will be available at First Pres for \$30 each. Tickets will not be sold at the door on the day of the luncheon.

The 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.

Wed., January 7  
**Taizé Chapel**  
**6:15 p.m.**

Once a month, spend a quiet 45 minutes  
In the First Pres Chapel.  
Songs, scripture, readings,  
Prayer, contemplation  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 6:15 (before choir)

### Christmas Joy Offering sent

Thank you for your generous donations to the Christmas Joy Offering. As of January 6, we collected and sent to the Presbytery \$1605. Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support education at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Thank you again for your faithful response.

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY**  
**PRAYER CONCERNS:**

E-mail concerns to:  
amcelder@comcast.net

**John Meyer** is home in hospice care.  
**Charlie Davidson**



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**Photo of Anderson Winn Oliver**  
Born December 22, 2014  
Trish Spinner's new grandson!

We also extend congratulations to Corey Donnelly and Chelsea Wilkerson on the birth of their daughter, **Cora Jane Wilkerson-Donnelly**, born 12/26/14. Cora was 7 lbs., 18 1/2 in. long. Corey is one happy new dad!



**E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

Kyle Mason - [kemason2010@yahoo.com](mailto:kemason2010@yahoo.com)  
Dick & Mary Ward - [rward1317@gmail.com](mailto:rward1317@gmail.com)  
John Kay - [johnkay003@gmail.com](mailto:johnkay003@gmail.com)

**THANK YOU**

*First Presbyterian Family,*  
*Thank you for serving lunch for Anne's funeral and for the many other outpourings of support to Anne, Leo, and family during these difficult times. I know Anne cherished her friends at First Pres.*  
*The Pondelick Family*

*As I head to Nicaragua, I want to thank everyone for kind words, moral support and medication and cash donations. You are much appreciated by the group and our patients there. Thank you*  
*Connie Requarth and IAMM*

**THANKS**

We sincerely appreciate the 25 volunteers who so efficiently took down all the Christmas decorations and 'hid the greens' back in the closets after worship Sunday. Special thanks to 'chef' Andrew Taylor and the Nicholson family for the wonderful spaghetti meal afterwards. Many hands made light work and also great fellowship.  
Cathy Force

**2015 TIPS FOR RESOLUTIONS**

Dr. Victoria Wilkins, a psychologist at New York Presbyterian, offers the following tips that will help your 2015 New Year's resolutions stick:

1. **Set realistic and achievable goals that have a sense of time and milestones**, so that one can see progress.
2. **Make small, gradual changes:** Large, sudden changes tend to be more difficult to adjust to.
3. **Get support:** Share your experiences with family, friends, a support group, or a mental health professional. Have someone to share your struggles and successes to make your journey easier.
4. **Don't beat yourself up:** Minor missteps when reaching your goals are normal and OK. The key is consistency. If you stray from your goals, get back on track."



**VERY GOOD**

**January 11 SUNDAY GREETERS**

**Before Service**

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| #1 Volunteer | #4 Volunteer  |
| #2 Volunteer | #5 Chuck Boes |
| #3 Volunteer |               |

**Computer Tech**

Norm Jensen

**Web Team**

Theresa Boes

Andy Rauff

**January Church School Teacher**

Donna Washburn

**Coffee & Fellowship**

Parish Visitors – The Beubes

**Media Tech**

Theresa Boes

**January Newsletter**

Yvonne Lewis

Susie Marshall

Pat Thom

**Money Counters**

Jean Gift

Mildred Weaver

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**CHURCH SCHOOL HOUR**

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**January 11, 2014**

**9:00 Everyday Issues during Advent** – Week two of a three-week series in the Book of Ruth "Uppity Women of the Bible," led by Beth Bachtold

**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 Prays for the Disciples" – John 17:6-21.

**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

## JANUARY IS NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

Did you know?

- Every 2 seconds someone in the US needs blood.
- More than 41,000 blood donations are needed every day.
- One donation can save the lives of up to 3 people.
- Although an estimated 38% of the US population is eligible to donate, less than 10% actually do each year.
- Two of the most common reasons cited by people who don't give blood are: "Never thought about it" and "I don't like needles."

Well, the Health Ministry Team hopes you will think about it this month and be ready to donate in February when we plan to host a blood drive here at First Presbyterian (exact date later). January is traditionally a low donor month due to weather and illness. However, the need for blood is constant.

Blood is a gift that can't be manufactured, it can only be donated.

Check out the white board in the Gathering Room that Donna Washburn and Yvonne Lewis created for more facts and inspiration.

Phyllis, Parish Nurse



## WORSHIP SERVICES

January 11, 2015

### Baptism of the Lord Ordination and Installation

Rev. Miley Palmer, preaching  
Sandy Peterson, 8:00 a.m. lay leader  
Pam Neeley, 9:15 a.m. service leader  
Joli Cirks, 10:30 a.m. lay leader

#### Sermon

"The Start of the Journey"

#### Scripture

Mark 1:4-11

#### Flowers on January 11

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:

**Jan. 11 & 18**

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.

## ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICES



This Sunday we highlight the Baptism of Jesus. We will also be installing our new officers. For the Class of 2017, the following will be installed and/or ordained. Tom Force is noted for the Class of 2015:

#### Ordained & Installed as Elders

Pixie Fennessey  
Susan Grieve  
Debbie VanZant

#### Installed as Elders

Marty Cushman  
David Michl

#### Ordained & Installed as Deacons

Tom Force (1-year term, Class of 2015)  
Walt Lohmann  
Bev Ritter  
Carol Sudduth  
Kathy Thornton

#### Installed as Deacons

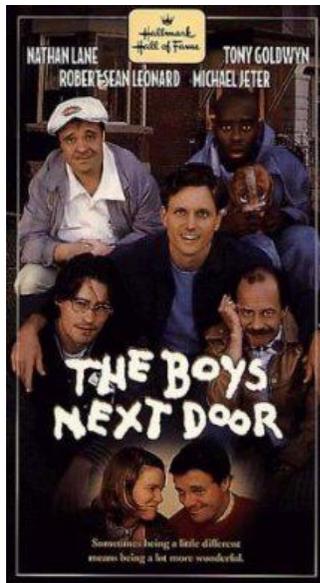
Carol Dixon  
Cheryl Thompson  
Nadine Wimmer

On the day before, Saturday, January 10, we will have an Officer Planning Day at the church for all current and new officers, and those who are rotating out of active service, to determine the most important tasks for the remainder of the Interim period. In the afternoon, the Deacons and Session will work independently. Planning before the big day will offer the new and current officers a more meaningful understanding of Ordination and Installation of Officers on Sunday.

We welcome aboard the new officers, thank the ones ending their faithful term, and continue to appreciate the efforts of our current members leading the church.

## Just Flicks x 2 in January!

January is our bonus month for Just Flicks with two films. **On the 11th we show *The Boys Next Door* at Central Christian Church.**



Then on the 25th we will screen *Do the Right Thing* at First Presbyterian. Both films start at 6 p.m.

*The Boys Next Door* (1996, 98 minutes) is a perfect example of a great but little-known made-for-TV movie that carries a powerful and well-delivered message.

Here's the basic plotline from Wikipedia: *Four mentally-challenged men share a house and are looked after by Jack (Tony Goldwyn), their social worker. The four men try to make sense of a mixed-up world, dealing with everything from runaway rodents to helping Norman, who has a new girlfriend (Mare Winningham). Jack's life with his wife is put on hold and he feels it's time to let them go.*

This film won two prestigious awards: the Christopher Award (given to producers, directors, and writers of books, motion pictures and television specials that "affirm the highest values of the human spirit"), and the Writers Guild of America award. Mare Winningham was also nominated for an Emmy. It is NOT to be confused with the 1985 film of the same name, about four teenage boys on a crime spree which is definitely not Just Flicks material.

The talented Don Martin will serve as our moderator, and the usual assortment of good eats will be awaiting you!

We hope to see you on the 11th at 6 p.m.



# 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](http://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.firstpresdecatur.org](http://www.firstpresdecatur.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



## 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

**RSVP (Dove)** will be collecting school supplies for Durfee Technology Magnet School as part of their Day of Service in observance of Martin Luther King's holiday. Durfee was chosen due to their high percent of low-income families. Many families struggle to heat their homes, making the task of replenishing school supplies midway through the school year that much more difficult. RSVP hopes to alleviate that stress by supplying what the children need for the remainder of the school year. Supplies will be delivered on MLK's birthday, January 15. Some of the items needed are markers, crayons, Clorox cleaning wipes, and ear buds for the children's use with IPADs. Just drop off any of the items listed above to the RSVP office located at 302 S. Union St. (lower level) before January 15.

**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.

**Nearly New Thrift Shop** needs volunteers to greet customers, sort gift items and hang clothes at the Senior Center. If you can help on Friday from 9-noon or noon-3, please call Leslie at 429-1239.

**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.