

## ***Tower Notes is getting a face lift.***



Tower Notes will begin 2016 as a twice monthly publication. So, we're getting a new look, also. You need to know what is on the agenda for at least the following two weeks. Articles are in a calendar format so that you can follow along as the month progresses. A graphic will tell you what type of event is highlighted. (See page two to preview the format.) It will take a while to get used to new deadlines and information but, please let us know if you miss something that has appeared in the past. Items will not be repeated for several issues, so make note of something important to you. Tower Notes will be issued on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. The last issue of the month will contain the calendar.

An email will be broadcast every Friday highlighting Sunday worship. If you have not received your Tower Notes as an email, you will still get this Friday update. This will start on **Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**. If you do not receive an email on that date, let ChristI know.

If you do not follow the First Presbyterian web site, now would be a good time to review all the great information that is available. This is updated often and is another great spot to find out about the exciting things going on at the church. Encourage friends to review it also, as they might find something of interest. [www.firstpresdecatur.org](http://www.firstpresdecatur.org)

Although the format is a little different, this publication would not happen without the diligence and creativity of Ann Elder and ChristI Smalley. They are the ones who make this happen and carry the burden of making sure important things are highlighted. Please help them by getting your information to them in a timely manner.

**Deadline** for the first issue in January is **Monday, January 11 at noon.**

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### **First Presbyterian Vision and Mission Statement**

***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:*** *Continue to be an active community-oriented congregation. Develop a passion for discipleship and advocacy. Celebrate unity of purpose with diversity in action.*

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**December 29, 2015**

**Volume 47**

**Number 49**

**Ricke Koetje, Editor**

SERVICES

2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 a.m.

Worship Service – Chapel

9:00 a.m.

Christian Education Hour – Everyday Issues Class

9:15 a.m.

NewSong Worship Service – Chapel

10:15 a.m.

Chapel Class – Chapel

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service – Sanctuary

10:30 a.m.

Children's Church School – Lower Level

**THANK YOU**

*Our Dec. 20 Music Service brought many compliments.  
Thank you for attending church  
and for being a part of the program.*



**Upcoming Events**



**December 31, 7:30 pm**

**New Year's Eve Pop Concert**

Central Christian Church  
650 W. William St.

Jerry Goodspeed, organ, piano, vocal  
Allison Woolridge, vocal

**January 1, 2016 – office closed**

**January 3, 2016 – Sunday**

**First Sunday**

Canned and boxed goods accepted first Sunday of the month for the Northeast Community Fund. Peacemaking committee will sell olive oil and Equal exchange coffee, tea and cocoa in the Gathering Room. Thank you for your support.

**9:00 Church School**

EVERYDAY ISSUES – 57 Varieties of Christianity with Bill Keagle and Miley Palmer – Continues through January 24.

TEEN CHURCH SCHOOL – No class until January 10. Teens meet bi-weekly in the lower level to set the agenda and select the topics. All teens from 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited for snacks, fellowship and discussions. Contact Mac Moore 855-3259 or moore.mw@gmail.com.



**Hiding of the Greens**

**Sunday, January 3, after church**

Advent decorations will be removed following the 10:30 service, except for the trees. Pizza served for lunch following. Please sign up in the Gathering Room or call the church office by December 30. You may also email Susan Moore at susanmoor@gmail.com.

**57 Varieties of Christianity**

**Tues. 1:30 & Wed. 6:15, starting January 5**

Miley and Bill Keagle offer a Tuesday class at 1:30 p.m., January 5-26, at First Presbyterian, focusing on religion in America. The same material will also be presented on Wednesdays, January 13-27, at 6:15 p.m. at First United Methodist.



**Taize Service**

**Wednesday, January 6, 6:15 pm**

Spend a quiet 45 minutes in the chapel. Songs, scriptures, readings, prayer and contemplation.



**Officer Retreat and Planning**

**Saturday, January 9, 8:30 am**

All Elders and Deacons from the classes of 2015-2018 are encouraged to participate in the Dining Room.

**Officer Ordination and Installation**

**Sunday, January 10 in each service**



**Just Flicks**

**Sunday, January 10, 6:00 pm**

Showing at Central Christian Church will be the movie NO (1988). Under considerable pressure, dictator Augusto Pinochet announced there would be a national plebiscite in Chile. The question to voters: should Pinochet remain in office for another eight years? To many, the possibility of a "no" seemed remote. And yet, a scrappy group of artists and admen craft an election campaign that runs on national television – and change the course of Chilean history.

**PRAYER SHAWL GROUP**

**January 13, 10:00 am**



**Caregivers Support Group**

**Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2:30 pm**

Join the first session of the year restarting our support group. Care giving can be in your home or across the miles. It can be many things – confusing, frustrating, rewarding, isolating, surprising, exhausting – to name a few.

We are looking forward to seeing those who have joined in the past and those who are ready to see what the caregiver support group is all about. No reservations needed, no dues, only an invitation to "come and see".

**This will continue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday every month.**

## Clean the Church



**Saturday, January 16, 9 am to 12**

The Deacons and Facilities Committee will have tasks for anyone who can help, from polishing and dusting to minor maintenance and repairs.

## Dr. Martin Luther King



### Luncheon Tickets

**Saturday, January 16, noon at the Decatur Club (158 W. Prairie).**

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Luncheon will be hosted by the Decatur Human Relations Commission. The speaker will be The Honorable Lisa Holder-White.

As is our custom, the Peacemaking Committee has reserved a 10-seat table for the luncheon. If you would like to attend the luncheon, tickets are \$30 each and may be purchased in the church office. Tickets will not be sold at the door on the day of the luncheon.

## Coming Later This Month ...

•Monday, January 18. Office closed

7:00 pm Session meeting

•Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm

Multi-choir Festival at Tabernacle Baptist Church

•Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> 9:00 am

Everyday Issues Class will have Dr. Beverly Matthews speaking about Caregiving issues.

•Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> following 10:30

worship – Annual Congregational meeting

•Sunday, February 7– Good Samaritan Inn

### Stock the Freezer

Our first Sunday to serve at the Good Samaritan Inn in 2016 is Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. Treats will be needed. Please donate pre-wrapped treats such as Little Debbie Nutty Bars, Oatmeal Pies, Rice Krispie Treats, etc. Please place in dining room by NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5. Your help is always appreciated. Thanks. (New Song Mission Group and Deacons)



**Jim Lycan**, Facilities Assistant, has new hours for his part-time position. Please note them, so if you have a request for him, he will have sufficient time to fill your request. Jim's hours are: **SUN-THURS, 7:00-12 noon.**

### Prayer Concerns

Mary Ann Grohne went to Bridge Care Suites in Springfield, to be close to her daughter Kathy.

David MacDonna, former member at Decatur First Pres., Board Member of Kemmerer Village, and former Presbyterian at Westminster, died December 21, 2015. If anyone would like to send a note to his wife Carolyn, the address is 2005 W. Lawrence Ave., Springfield, IL 62704.

### Announcements - Winter Break Travels

**Kendall Eisenhower** will march in the Fiesta Bowl parade in downtown Phoenix on Saturday, January 2. Kendall plays the trumpet in the Mahomet-Seymour High School marching band.

**Brett Eisenhower** is going to the Montreat College Conference in North Carolina from January 2-5.

### Thank You

Many Thanks to **Margi Nicholson** for her compassionate leadership of the Children's Ministry. She has faithfully served for 2 years and has been a supportive friend to the nursery staff, teachers, families and children of First Pres. We wish her the very best in her future calling and know that she is following God's will. Thank you from us all!

Thank you, **Kathy Beube**, for thinking of First Pres when sending this beautiful write-up to Decatur City Limitless – Check it out:

<http://www.decaturocitylimitless.com/inside-limitless-having-faith/>



*Tis the Season to Give and "Wow" did you ever!!*

The Youth Bake Sale was a success because of the generous gifts of our church family. We raised just over \$500.00 for future camp retreats and mission opportunities both local and abroad.

"Thank you" to all who participated in organizing, baking, & purchasing for this annual event. Bake Sale 2015 team: Brenda Aymer, Kathy Beube, Olivia Bachtold, Jackie Evans, Jody Hantel, Jane Spires, Kelly Tohill



### VERY GOOD

January 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

#### Lay Leaders

8:00 Sandy Peterson

9:15 Terry Hogg, service leader

10:30 Dick Virgin

#### Greeters Before Service

#1 Noah Gillespie

#4 Jean Gift

#2 Pam Neeley

#5 Wally Minnis

#3 Sue Weinstein

#### Computer Tech

Jackie Evans

#### Web Team

Theresa Boes

Andy Rauff

#### Media Tech

Jackie Evans

#### Church School Teacher

Kathy Beube

#### January 3 COMMUNION SERVERS

8:00 a.m. – Marty Cushman

9:15 a.m. – Pam Neeley

10:30 a.m. –

#### Current Elders & Deacons

Kathy Thornton

David Michl

Bev Ritter

Cheryl Thompson

Walt Lohmann

Mike Zia

#### Other Elders

George and Judy Batson

Denise Lohmann

Linda Castleman

#### Newsletter Volunteers

Yvonne Lewis

Susie Marshall

Pat Thom

#### Money Counters





Jean Gift

Mildred Weaver

# January Birthdays



- Lonnie Blankenship – 3
  - Chuck Boes – 4
  - Cheryl Falk – 4
  - Dalton Guadagno – 4
  - Bwth Hagan – 5
  - Lily Brown – 7
  - Jurg Padrutt – 7
  - Brian Blackburn – 8
  - Ethan Law – 8
  - Virginia Maines – 9
  - Tim Montgomery – 9
  - Robert Bullock – 11
  - Carlton Washburn – 11
  - Jody Hantel – 12
  - Jayne Marquis – 14
  - John Washburn – 14
  - Andy Rauff – 16
  - Katherine Arnold – 17
  - Alex Bales – 17
  - Denise Lohmann – 17
  - Kathy Thornton – 17
  - Lindsey Castleman-Zia – 18
  - Kyle Nicholson – 19
  - Simon Nicholson – 19
  - Barbara Redford – 19
  - Katie Lohmann White – 19
  - Patrick Smallwood – 20
  - Margie Bennett – 21
  - Grace Smith-Phillips – 21
  - Dick Fiala – 22
  - Peggy Madden – 24
  - Diane Rushing – 24
  - Joseph McBeath – 25
  - Greg Crowe – 26
  - Addysyn Hale – 26
- Did we forget someone?  
Please let us know!**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>January 2016</h1>		"The twelve months... Snowy, Flowy, Blowy, Showery, Flowery, Bowery, Hoppy, Croppy, Droppy, Breezy, Sneezy, Freezy." - George Ellis			(7am-AA) 1 <b>New Year's Day</b> Office Closed	(7am-AA) 2
3 <b>Sacrament of the Lord's Supper</b> 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Christian Education 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:15am Chapel Class 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Church School 4:00pm Serendipity – PO	(7am-AA) 4 8:30am Money Counters  4:45pm Facilities Mtg. – L 6:00pm Peacemaking Mtg.-GR 6:30pm Mission Mtg. – DR 7:00pm Worship Mtg. – L	(7am-AA) 5 10:30am Staff Meeting – YA 11:30am Worship Planning – L  1:30pm 57 Varieties of Christianity - GR 5:15pm Tower Ringers - BR	(7am-AA) 6 <b>Epiphany of the Lord</b> 8:30am Tower Notes Folders – L 9:30am Parish Visitors – GR 10:30am Backpack Assembly-L 5:15pm Church St. Bells – BR 6:15pm Taizé Service - Chapel	(7am-AA) 7 9:00am Volunteers @ Good Sam  6:30pm Multi-choir rehearsal at Tabernacle Baptist Church	(7am-AA) 8 10:00am Caregivers Plan-L 12:00pm Reports for Session and ANNUAL REPORTS are due.	(7am-AA) 9 8:30a.m. Officer Retreat & Planning – Dining Room  1:00pm Baby Shower – GR (Katie Eytchison)
10 <b>Baptism of the Lord Ordination &amp; Installation</b> 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Christian Education 9:00am Teen Church School - YA 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:15am Chapel Class 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Church School 11:30am Deacons' Meeting - DR 4:00pm Serendipity – PO 6:00pm Just Flicks- No – DR	(7am-AA) 11 8:30am Money Counters 10:30am BC PEO – DR 12:00am Catholic Charities Board Meeting - YA 1:00pm Pink Smoke – C 5:15pm Adult Ministry - L	(7am-AA) 12 10:30am Staff Meeting – YA  1:30pm 57 Varieties of Christianity - GR 5:15pm Tower Ringers – BR	(7am-AA) 13 8:30am Tower Notes Folders – L 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group - C 10:30am Backpack Assembly-L 2:30pm Caregiver's Support – C 5:15pm Church St. Bells – BR 5:30pm Administration Mtg. - L 6:15pm 57 Varieties of Christianity - FUM 6:30pm Multi-choir rehearsal at Tabernacle Baptist Church	(7am-AA) 14	(7am-AA) 15 	(7am-AA) 16 
17 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Christian Education 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:15am Chapel Class 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Church School 4:00pm Serendipity – PO	(7am-AA) 18 <b>Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.</b> Office Closed  12:00pm IPA Meeting - GR 7:00pm Session Meeting – GR	(7am-AA) 19 8:30am Money Counters 10:30am Staff Meeting – YA 11:30am Worship Planning – L 1:30pm 57 Varieties of Christianity - GR 4:00pm Health Ministry – L 5:15pm Tower Ringers - BR	(7am-AA) 20 8:30am Tower Notes Folders – L 10:30am Backpack Assembly-L 5:15pm Church St. Bells – BR 6:15pm 57 Varieties of Christianity - FUM 6:30pm Tenor & Bass – CR 7:00pm Choir Practice – CR	(7am-AA) 21  6:30pm Multi-choir rehearsal at Tabernacle Baptist Church	(7am-AA) 22 	(7am-AA) 23 10:00am Multi-choir rehearsal at Tabernacle Baptist Church
24 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Christian Education 9:00am Teen Church School-YA 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:15am Chapel Class 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Church School 2:00pm Multi-Choir Festival at Tabernacle Baptist Church 4:00pm Serendipity – PO 6:00pm Just Flicks at CCC	(7am-AA) 25 1:00pm Pink Smoke – C	(7am-AA) 26 8:30am Money Counters 10:30am Staff Meeting – YA 1:30pm 57 Varieties of Christianity - GR 5:15pm Tower Ringers - BR	(7am-AA) 27 8:30am Tower Notes Folders – L 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group - C 10:30am Backpack Assembly-L 1:30pm Worship Planning – L 2:30pm Caregiver's Support – C 5:15pm Church St. Bells – BR 6:15pm 57 Varieties of Christianity - FUM 6:30pm Tenor & Bass – CR 7:00pm Choir Practice – CR	(7am-AA) 28  5:30pm Women's Night Out at Olive Garden	(7am-AA) 29	(7am-AA) 30
31 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Christian Education 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:15am Chapel Class 10:30am Worship with Annual Congregational Meeting at close of Worship - Sanctuary 10:30am Church School 4:00pm Serendipity – PO		"Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour." - John Boswell			