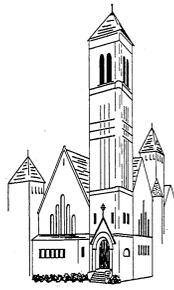


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Tower Notes

VOLUME 47

February 4, 2015

NUMBER 6

February 4, 2015	6:15 p.m.	Taizé Service – Chapel
February 8, 2015	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Chapel
5th 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.



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 Wednesday of Holy Week 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 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 February 18 supper 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.



JUST FLICKS AT CENTRAL CHRISTIAN

On Sunday, February 8, Just Flicks will show "Witness" at 6:00 p.m.

In the 1985 film, a young Amish boy (Lukas Haas) witnesses a murder in Philadelphia while traveling with his widowed mother (Kelly McGillis). Covering the crime, Detective John Book (Harrison Ford) discovers a police conspiracy and all three retreat to Amish country. Book has to adjust to the Amish lifestyle and his feelings for the mother, while the killers are still on their trail.

Reelviews.net offered this review:

Calling Witness a crime thriller is technically accurate, but it does this layered and dramatically compelling movie a disservice. In fact, Witness is much more than a thriller. It's a love story, a fish-out-of-water tale, and an examination of clashing cultures in a modern world. For Harrison Ford, freed from the shackles of Han Solo (although still bound to Indiana Jones), this was an opportunity to try something different. The result was one of the most nuanced and competent performances of his career.

We will have a real-life attorney to share his insight and knowledge. Local lawyer, activist, journalist, and all-around good guy Josh Rohrscheib has agreed to moderate the lively discussion.

The film starts at 6 p.m. at Central Christian Church, and the usual assortment of healthy and not-quite-so-healthy food awaits your palate. It runs 112 minutes, and is rated R for language, nudity, and violence.

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY
PRAYER CONCERNS:**

E-mail concerns to:
amcelder@comcast.net

Charlie Davidson

Bill Grieve is at Decatur Memorial, room 4107.

Rob Roberts is moving to The Glenwood in Mt. Zion on February 3.

MEMBER INFORMATION

Bill Towns - new address
204 Camelot Circle
Woodcrest Apts.
Decatur, IL 62526
Cell 217-620-5978 - same phone number

Jackie Evans - new cell # 217-855-3602

Kathy Thornton - cell # 217-358-8555

THANK YOU

With gratitude we say "thank you" for your recent gift of toiletries to Dove, Inc. Your support of Dove's programs supports the many individuals and families seeking services.

Your generosity and willingness to support our organization that reaches so many people across central Illinois is greatly appreciated.

Jim Walters, Executive Director

*MISSION COMMITTEE DONATION
First Presbyterian Church,
The Board of Directors, staff and patrons of
the Good Samaritan Inn wish to thank you
for your generous contribution. Your support
provides the funds to purchase food, pay
our operating expenses, and employ a staff
that is capable of preparing and serving
excellent meals that are nutritious and
ample for our patrons. Without your
assistance, fulfillment of our mission on
behalf of Jesus Christ would not be
possible.
All the Volunteers and Staff of The Good
Samaritan Inn*



Thank you to the ten members who took advantage of subscribing to

Presbyterians Today magazine, free for one year to new subscribers. You won't be disappointed.



**VERY GOOD
February 8 SUNDAY GREETERS**

Before Service

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

Computer Tech

Jackie Evans

Coffee & Fellowship

Nadine Wimmer

Web Team

Theresa Boes

Media Tech

Jackie Evans

Andy Rauff

January Church School Teacher

Carol Fuller

Becoming a little "hot" under the collar with building heat issues?

Does shivering count as exercise?



We want to apologize for the cold rooms we have been having in the past month or so, and we really are working on it with Jim and the plumbing and heating company to get it resolved, and now with an engineering firm to see how the old and new systems can work together until we replace the old. Even the new boilers take longer to heat the large sanctuary. We don't want to make immediate decisions and spend money unwisely. Thank you for understanding our dilemma, and continue to let us know if a room is cold. We do have a couple of heaters in the office for you to borrow and a pot of hot coffee.

First Presbyterian Staff

CHURCH SCHOOL HOUR

February 8, 2014

9:00 Everyday Issues during Advent –Guest speaker, Stacey Brohard, Director of Good Samaritan Inn, will provide an update on Good Sam, Mercy Gardens, Mercy Kitchens and DIGG.

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 "Serving Neighbors, Serving God" – Luke 10:25-34.

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

GOOD SAMARITAN INN - 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.



Souper Bowl of Caring
Sunday's collection for hunger tackled \$241 for Good Samaritan Inn. Thank you so much for caring.
First Pres Youth



WORSHIP SERVICES

February 8, 2015

5th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Rev. John Kay, preaching

Mac Moore, 8:00 a.m. lay leader

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

Donna Washburn, 10:30 a.m. lay leader

Sermon

"The Kingdom"

Scripture

Mark 1:29-39

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.

Deacons Meeting

SUNDAY, February 8, 2015
11:45 A.M., Dining Room

MILK – SO MANY CHOICES FOR PLAIN OLD COW'S MILK!

Here is what some of the labels mean:



- **Nonfat, 1%, 2%** – Eight ounces of 2% milk has 122 calories and 5 fat grams, (3 saturated); 1% has 102 calories and 2 grams of fat; nonfat (skim) has 83 calories and almost 0 grams of fat, plus slightly more calcium than whole milk.
- **Shelf stable with long expiration date** – These products undergo ultra-high temperature processing which kills 99.9 % of bacteria. This helps milk last more than a month. It does change milk proteins giving it a 'cooked' favor.
- **Omega-3 fortified milk** – it has 32-50mg of omega-3 per glass (500mg/day is recommended for heart health). It is in the form of flavorless fish

oil. It is not thought to be as effective as eating 2 servings of fish a week.

- **Organic** – Government regulations require that it comes from an organic farm, is 100% organic fed, has no growth hormones, and no antibiotics. It costs about a dollar more per ½ gallon.
- **Skim Plus** – milk solids are added or water is removed which makes it creamier. Eight ounces has 40 more calories than skim, 3 extra grams of protein, and 100 more milligrams of calcium.

If you don't like any of these choices, there is always soy, almond, coconut and lactose free milk. Milk provides 300mg of calcium per cup, which is 1/3 of the amount you need daily. Drinking skim milk may lower your risk of high blood pressure by up to 50%.

Doesn't a break with milk and cookies sound good right now?

Phyllis, Parish Nurse

(Source: Consumer Reports on Health, January 2015)

American Red Cross Blood Services

- The American Red Cross blood program started in 1940, under the leadership of Dr. Charles Drew, an African American surgeon who had pioneered methods of storing blood plasma for transfusion.
- The American Red Cross supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood supply.
- The Red Cross provides blood for patients in approximately 2,700 hospitals across the U.S.
- The Red Cross makes blood available to any patient who needs it— patients are not required to find donors to replace the blood they use- a common practice in Europe and in some blood banks.
- Eighty percent of the blood donations given to the Red Cross are collected at mobile blood drives set up at community organizations, companies, high schools and colleges, places of worship or military facilities. The remaining 20 percent are collected at fixed Red Cross donor centers.
- The Red Cross works with more than 50,000 blood drive sponsors each year to hold more than 200,000 blood drives, providing convenient locations for donors.

(From the American Red Cross website)

Watch for more information as the First Presbyterian blood drive planned for April nears!

SO IMPORTANT...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, and so far, we have only a few signed up. They want to know that the interest is enough to sponsor a blood drive. We have the survey in the Gathering Room. Please sign up if you are part of the 38% of Americans who are eligible to give blood.

Connie Requarth, Health Ministry Team

WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT

Fuji's BYNORTH WalMART

Thurs., February 26, 2015, 5:30pm

Expired Military Coupon Program

Dove collects expired manufactured coupons and ships them overseas to military families. The families can use them overseas up to six months past the expiration date. Monetary donations are needed for postage as one box costs \$15.90 to ship and contains approximately 20,000 coupons, which is a lot of savings for our families struggling overseas. You may continue to help support them by donating the cost of one box.

Checks for postage can be mailed to

Dove, Inc. – RSVP

302 S. Union

Decatur, IL 62522

Add "postage" on the memo line

OR

You may donate online at www.doveinc.org

and put "coupon postage" on the note box.

Coupons can be dropped off at 302 S. Union or 800 E. Clay.

New year – New friends



TAPAS HOURS 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

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.

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
Verlyn Rosenberger	877-4789
Harriet Sadowski	428-5607
Jane Spires	520-1884
Sue Weinstein	454-7819
Joan Winick	428-5437



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, Rob Roberts

Heartland: John Winick

Hickory Point Christian Village: Louise Bear, Esther Grissom, Dick Ferry

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

Dove's Children's Clothing Room

Dove's Clothing Room re-opened January 13 for the new year. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. There are still plenty of coats for kids – just stop in and request one. Do you know of someone in need, please contact Dove at 428-6616 and ask for Sandy Harmison.

In addition, volunteers are needed to help in the clothing room located inside of the Prairie Avenue Christian Church at 2201 E. Prairie Ave.