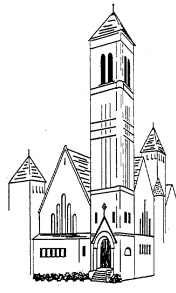


Tower Notes (USPS 634720) is published
Weekly, except week of Christmas, by
 First Presbyterian Church, 204 W. Prairie Ave.,
 Decatur, IL 62523. Periodical postage paid at
 Decatur, IL. Postmaster: Send address changes
 to Tower Notes, 204 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur IL
 62523 (217)429-4195; (217)429-4712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



Tower Notes

VOLUME 47

April 15, 2015

NUMBER 16

April 19, 2015
 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Chapel
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.

THE BIG CHURCH CLEAN UP Joint Church Neighborhood Cleanup Saturday, April 18



The Peacemaking Committee is joining representatives of Central Christian Church, Central United Methodist Church, First United Methodist Church, House of Miracles, and New Salem Baptist Church for a neighborhood cleanup on Saturday, April 18. Each church will pick up litter over a few specified city blocks and collectively we will have cleaned up our entire Church St. neighborhood. First Presbyterian Church has been assigned the area bounded by Church, Main, Monroe, and Prairie. If you would like to participate, then please meet at Wildflour Café (256 W. Main) at 8:30 a.m. for coffee or at the church at 9:00 a.m. for work. We will supply trash bags, but you should bring your own gloves. It should take less than 2 hours. Please join us if you can.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The “Labor of Love” Prayer Shawl ministry will meet monthly on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30 A.M. (or whenever you need to leave). We begin with a devotion, updates on members/concerns and chit-chat as we knit or crochet. Drop in anytime April 22nd.



TWO MORE Spring Musicales April 19 and 26 at 4:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church

Enjoy a wide variety of music, vocals, and instruments from local artists.

If you were not able to attend the first musicale, you have two more occasions. We received many, many accolades on the first event. Thank you for attending.

April 19: Jazz Pianist Michael Scherer with Vocalist Zach Garret, Visiting Artist Michael and Kate Swope (Kate is Margi Nicholson's daughter), First Pres "Belles A Ringin", and 1st Pres String Band;

April 26: Broadway Style Vocalist Dick and Ann Borders, Multi-instrumentalist Claire Taylor, Millikin University's Saxophone Ensemble, and Millikin University Classical Pianist Chung-Ha Kim.

Following these concerts, there will be pizza and pop at 5:00 p.m. in the dining room. Donations will be accepted.

Childcare will be available for children, ages birth-preschool.

National Day of Prayer

“Lord, Hear Our Cry”

Thursday, May 7, Noon–1:00 P.M.

Grace United Methodist, 901 N. Main Street

www.nationaldayofprayer.org

E-mail concerns to:
amcelder@comcast.net

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY
PRAYER CONCERNS:**

Sandy Peterson's sister Lisa Peterson was diagnosed with lymphoma.
Rob Roberts will be moving to Indianapolis.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Carol Dixon whose mother, Rosanne Hall, died April 6, 2015. They will have a celebration of life service in Tucson over the Memorial Day weekend.

COME TO THE WATERS

All women are welcome
Women's Bible Study

The PW Horizons Bible Study is here! COME TO THE WATERS will guide us as we explore some of the Bible's more than 800 references to water as a way to nourish our faith. Some of the water stories and images enable us to learn more about God and how God would have us live our lives. Just as water nourishes our bodies, so scripture nourishes our souls. Come join us April 20 at 1:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room as we begin with Genesis 1:1-2:4. We will explore the creation stories, God's goodness, the role of humans and the place of rest in creation. Study books are available in the office for \$9.00.



VERY GOOD

April 19 SUNDAY GREETERS

Before Service

- #1 Jan Mandernach
- #2 Pam Neeley & Noah Gillespie
- #3 Craig Mandernach
- #4 George and Judy Batson
- #5 Pat Smallwood

Computer Tech

Fred Spannaus

Web Team

Theresa Boes
Andy Rauff

Media Tech

Jackie Evans

April Church School Teacher

Margi Nicholson

**Good Samaritan Inn's
2nd Annual Iron Chef Fundraiser**



An evening of entertainment and great food as we watch team Richland compete against team Good Samaritan Inn in a heated culinary competition – Get your tickets NOW! Saturday, April 18th, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel. Tickets are \$30 per person, \$50 per couple, or \$250 for a table of 10. Call Julie at 217 429-1455.

SUNDAY

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP

A FRESH APPROACH

Sunday fellowship in our Gathering Room is a great opportunity to greet church family and meet new friends. We are making it easier with no worries and more focus on the fellowship.



A fellowship team will recruit hosts, purchase food and oversee this ministry. How can YOU help? Say YES when called to host and/or support this ministry with a monetary donation. The church will continue to provide coffee and tea.

Thanks for your help in continuing this opportunity to meet friends and visitors!

Cathy Force (Lay Ministry Coordinator) and the Fellowship Team

**NEXT MISSION PROJECT:
SANGAMON RIVER CLEAN-UP**



**Rock Springs
Nature Center
Saturday, April 25
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
For ages 10 and up**

Let's help clean up a winter's worth of debris that has sailed down the Sangamon. Each volunteer earns a coupon for a free lunch following the clean-up!

Sign-up sheets will be in the Gathering Room on Sunday, or let Rob Eytchison know as soon as possible if you'd like to participate in the river clean-up, as we need to pre-register our group.

(After lunch, you can check out the nature center's Festival of Spring until 4:00 pm. Many activities will be offered for the whole family, including music, wagon rides, food, face painting and crafts. Visit baby animals and tour the historic Homestead Prairie Farm. Admission is free.)

**LUNCHEON
INVITE**

Mark your calendar!



The Sanctuary Choir will host a luncheon after the 10:30 a.m. service on **May 3** in the Dining Room. Watch Tower Notes and the bulletin for further information!



WORSHIP SERVICES

April 19, 2015

3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

Rev. John Kay, preaching

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

Rob Eytchison, 9:15 a.m. service leader

Claire Taylor, 10:30 a.m. lay leader

Sermon

"Undying Love"

Scripture

Luke 24:36b-48

Flowers

The flowers this Sunday are given to the Glory of God in honor of Sarah Moore Montgomery's graduation April 18 from Union Presbyterian Seminary and in memory of her mentor, Ruth Pace.

April Ushers

Myung Kim, Captain

Joli Cirks

Debbie & Ralph Czerwinski

Carol Ferry-sub

Tom & Nancy Force

Eric Nevitt-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



DATE\$:

May 3 &

May 31

Purchase

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

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



All men are invited to gather every Thursday morning from 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. in the

Gathering Room to study the Book of Revelation. The hot coffee is always ready at 7:00 and we take turns bringing some tasty donuts or coffeecake. Come join George, Dick, Paul, Ray & René.

COME & CONSIDER FOR ALL VISITORS AND NEWER MEMBERS APRIL 19TH



Wondering what it means to be Presbyterian? Want to know more about First Pres, its mission and programs? Care to meet some other visitors or new members? Rev. John Kay and Cathy Force are offering an informal gathering from 2:30-4 on Sunday, April 19th to answer any questions you may have. Please contact Cathy (cathyforce@comcast.net or 521-7131) if interested.

CHURCH SCHOOL HOUR

April 19, 2014

9:00 Everyday Issues during Advent: Dining Room - Dr. Bill Keagle continues his last Sunday class discussion on "Understanding World Religions".

9:00 Present Word Bible Study: Main floor Pastor's study – This class is currently suspended while its regular participants attend the Everyday Issues class thru April 19, 2015.

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: Sanctuary then Lower Level

Don't forget the 7 p.m. **Wednesday World Religion** class led by Bill Keagle – Class discussions and questions on Wednesday and also at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings. All are welcome to join Bill's final class on April 22.

WONDER by R. J. Palacio - a Book Study

Craig Mandernach will lead a 2-week book study during the 9 a.m. class on Sunday, **May 10 and May 17**. He was introduced to Wonder at his last summer at Montreat and wanted to share it with us. Many book clubs have discussed this young adult novel about a severely disfigured 5th grader who enters fifth grade wanting nothing more than to be treated as ordinary. The story explores issues such as acceptance, friendship, bullying, family and justice. All ages are invited to the discussion group. The book may be purchased on Amazon, or through the church office. There are also several copies in the Decatur Public Library.



ORPHANAGE NEEDS

Donation box in Library

The Peacemaking Committee will be collecting items for Pixie Fennessey to take to By Grace Orphanage in Nairobi, Kenya. The items needed are **new pencils, new pens, band aids, antibiotic lotion, sterile bandages, new or slightly worn bras for young girls and new or slightly used tee shirts for boys**. There will be a collection box in the library from April 11th through May 10th. Anyone who wishes to send letters to the children at By Grace should also put letters in the donation box. Thanks for your continued loving support of the orphans at By Grace.

JUST FLICKS IDEAS

Next year the Just Flicks film series celebrates its tenth season of bringing "films that matter" to the Decatur community. We have started a list of potential films for the 2015-2016 season and are now asking you for suggestions to add to that list.

If you have a film that would bring an important perspective to our view of social justice issues, please e-mail Fred at spannaus@ameritech.net. It would be extremely helpful if you could include a brief synopsis of the film and a link to its website. Thank you for your suggestions.

STRING BAND PERFORMANCES



Wednesday, April 22, 4:30- 5:30 P.M.
Reserve at Lakeview, 1035 S. Main Street, Decatur

Wednesday, May 13, 10:00-11:00 A.M.
McKinley Ct. Care Centre, 500 W. McKinley Ave., Decatur

THOSE SPRING CHORES CAN SERVE YOU WELL!!



"My spring cleaning got spring fever."

Okay, it is time again for yard work, washing windows, planting flowers, washing the car, to name of few of the tasks on our spring "to do" list. Well, new research has shown that all those are very good for you. Non-exercise physical

activity (NEPA) has been found to lower the risk of cardiovascular disease and other life threatening illnesses. Replacing 30 minutes of sedentary time with NEPA will provide this benefit. NEPA may include low intensity activities such as: laundry, washing dishes, minor home repairs, or moderate intensity activities such as: gardening, climbing the stairs, cleaning the car. The point is not to give up your exercise program, but to reduce your sedentary time.

One study noted that the average adult spends 50 -70% of his or her time sitting. It found that those who sit the most had a 112% increase risk of developing diabetes, a 147% increase risk for heart disease, and a 49% greater risk of dying prematurely. (Older adults tend to sit for longer periods than any other age group)

So, the bottom line is – Get Up, Get Moving. Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today. You will gain many health benefits, along with a clean house, mowed lawn, etc, etc, etc.

Phyllis, Parish Nurse

DO YOU HAVE A LAPTOP?

Dear Friends of the children at By Grace Orphanage,



Hellen Motegi is a college student in Nairobi, Kenya.

Hellen spent many years as an orphan/student at By Grace Orphanage. After graduating she stayed for four years and taught all the preschool classes. She is set to graduate in September with her Bachelor degree in Community Health. Unfortunately, this week her laptop and the By Grace building laptop were stolen, and the majority of Hellen's senior project notes were lost as well as the records of By Grace. She and By Grace are each in need of a used laptop. If anyone has a laptop that they are willing to part with it, you would be most appreciated. This would be considered an in-kind donation, and a receipt will be issued so that it can be used as a tax deduction.

If you have a used laptop you would be willing to donate, please contact Pixie Fennessey at 217-620-3408. Thank you!

AFRICAN ITEMS...

May 2, 2015

The Peacemaking committee will be sponsoring a handmade African item sale on May 2 in the Gathering room, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Most items are made in Kenya and a lot of the jewelry is made by children at By Grace Orphanage. All proceeds will be used to help to provide for the basic needs of the children at By Grace. There will be some unusual items that would make interesting and novel Mother's Day gifts.

COMING TOGETHER:

How to get started

Engaging Neighbors of other Faith Traditions

#2 We all carry assumptions.

Do the work of unpacking and acknowledging your assumptions while listening attentively to people of other religious traditions.

**The Presbyterian Resource Guide for Ministry
Presbyterians Today**

ONE WAY > JESUS

Annual Children's Conference

Lampstand Presbyterian, Airport Rd.

April 18, 9:00-3:30 p.m. 428-8839

K-5th grade - \$15 (lunch and t-shirt)

Register at www.lampstandpc.org