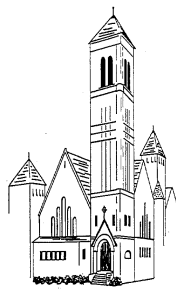


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Tower Notes

VOLUME 47

April 8, 2015

NUMBER 15

April 12, 2015
 2nd 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.



CAN'T BEAT FREE
3 Spring Musicales
April 12, 19 and 26
at 4:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian
Church

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

April 12: Second Wind Flute Ensemble, Classical Instrumental Soloists Doug and Susan Phillips, Jazz Vocalist Karen Driver with First Pres Combo, and Vocalist David Holmlund;

April 19: Jazz Pianist Michael Scherer with Vocalist Zach Garret, Visiting Artist Michael and Kate Swope, First Pres "Bells 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.



JUST FLICKS

Sunday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian

Just Flicks brings a powerful documentary of three young women at the Warrenville, IL prison. Based on their lives, these inmates create and produce an extraordinary musical, "Girls on the Wall: The True Story of a Lockdown Musical."

As a **special treat**, the church's music department is hosting a recital and pizza and pop starting at 4 p.m.

A freewill offering will be taken to cover the pizza costs. If you don't wish to attend the recital but wish to have pizza at 5 p.m. before the movie, please contact Lori Jensen (lori.jensen1@comcast.net or on her cell at 972-8110)

COME TO THE WATERS

All women are welcome

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 will be available in the office for purchase.

Conversation on RACE 2015

an ongoing honest dialogue
 April 9, 2015 at 6 pm
 MacArthur High School Auditorium
 1499 W. Grand Ave.

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY
PRAYER CONCERNS:**

E-mail concerns to:
amcelder@comcast.net

James Nevitt was released from the hospital on April 2.

Sandy Peterson's sister Lisa has been diagnosed with lymphoma.

Rob Roberts is no longer at Heritage Health in Mt. Zion.

*Dear Friends of Stand Up For Grace and the Children of By Grace,
I thought many of you might be concerned about the children at By Grace after the recent terrorist attack at Garissa College in Kenya. The children are all fine although they are afraid. Garissa is several hours from Nairobi and is in the Northeast. It is closer to Mombasa and the Somalia border than Nairobi. Al-Shabaab has taken credit for the attack. There were 148 college students killed. According to The Daily Nation, a Nairobi newspaper, the government was warned in advance but only sent four officers. After the report was made, it took the military special terrorist unit seven hours to get to Garissa.*

Please keep the people of Kenya and the dear children at By Grace in your thoughts and prayers.

*Thank you,
Pixie Fennessey, President, Stand Up For Grace*

CONGRATULATIONS

Craig and Jan Mandernach welcomed a grandson, Josiah Fritz Shoher, on March 30, 2015. He was 8lbs 2oz and lets the world know when he is hungry. His sisters, Clara, Gretchen, and Naomi are delighted that he is healthy and happy, as are his parents, Megan and Arnold Shoher.

THANK YOU



ON AN ORDINARY MONDAY AFTERNOON, 27 PEOPLE CAME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO GIVE BLOOD.

Twenty-two pints were collected

which will impact 66 lives.

Thank you to all the donors who gave the gift of life. With the help of the Health Ministry Committee and George Batson, Janet Palmer, Jackie Lawton, and Jackie Evans, all went smoothly. We even have some cookies left over to share on Sunday morning.

The American Red Cross thanks the church for its support in helping them fulfill their mission of providing lifesaving blood to patients in need.

My thanks to all who participated in making this a successful blood drive.

Phyllis, Parish Nurse



Church Yard Spring Clean-up

Special thanks to our volunteers who spruced up the church yard and parking lot gardens before Easter. We appreciate Helen

Corcoran, Tom Force, Terry Hogg, Norm & Lori Jensen, Barbara Keagle, and Susie Marshall using their talents and time to make our church grounds more inviting. THANKS always to church volunteers who get the job done!



VERY GOOD

April 12 SUNDAY GREETERS

Before Service

- #1 Jim May
- #2 Carol Fuller
- #3 Pam Neeley and Noah Gillespie
- #4 Dick and Mary Ward
- #5 Church Boes

Computer Tech

Norm Jensen

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.

**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**

We'll get down and dirty and help clean up a winter's worth of debris that has sailed down the Sangamon.

Each volunteer also 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.)



WORSHIP SERVICES

April 12, 2015

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

Rev. Miley Palmer, preaching
Mac Moore, 8:00 a.m. lay leader
Rob Eytchison, 9:15 a.m. service leader
Dick Fiala, 10:30 a.m. lay leader

Sermon

"We Live With Hope, Doubting"

Scripture

I John 1:1-7
John 20:19-31

Flowers

The flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of Lou Ann Brown, given by the Force and Brown families.

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.

Deacons Meeting

SUNDAY, April 12, 2015
11:45 A.M., Dining Room



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 ANY VISITORS AND NEWER MEMBERS DATE CHANGED TO 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 12, 2014

- 9:00 Everyday Issues during Advent:** Dining Room - Dr. Bill Keagle will continue his Lenten 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. You may join the class anytime as we continue through the next two weeks through April 22.

NAME TAG SUNDAYS...every Sunday

The Evangelism team thanks everyone for wearing their name tags on Sunday, especially for special weeks like Easter Sunday. Even if visitors don't get greeted by those in the Gathering Room or in their pew, they can see names as they walk through the church. Newer members are still trying to learn everyone's names and 'older members' may not remember new names! It probably also helps John (and Betty, when she visits). Your participation is appreciated!

COMING TOGETHER – How to get started Engaging Neighbors of other Faith Traditions #1 Put people first.

We relate first to people, not to religions themselves.

The Presbyterian Resource Guide for Ministry
Presbyterians Today

ONE GREAT HOUR OFFERING

To date we received \$2461. Last year's total was \$2812.



Your gifts for the One Great Hour offering on April 5 will support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge and start new lives.

We hope to exceed last year's total. Thank you for your generous response.

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

UUF shows last film in Environmental Film Series

On Saturday, April 11, the final film for their 8th season will feature HEART OF SKY, HEART OF EARTH (2013, 98 MIN.).

You will accompany six young Maya in Guatemala and Chiapas through their daily and ceremonial life. They put forth a wholly indigenous Mayan perspective in their own words, without narration. Their cosmology, in which all life is sacred and interconnected, presents a deeply compelling alternative to the prevailing worldview. As giant corporations go to the ends of the earth to extract all resources, these Maya reveal their determination to resist the destruction of their culture and environment.

A discussion follows the film held at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur (3773 N. MacArthur Road, Decatur, IL). Screening will begin at 7:00 PM. Limited seating is available.

Free admission, donations accepted – fresh theatre-style popcorn and healthy drinks available for purchase.

SPIRITUALITY SERIES

Fear: A Challenge to our Spiritual Growth

St. Mary's Hospital Assisi Room
Two sessions from which to choose:

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

April 21, 28 and May 5, 12 OR

Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

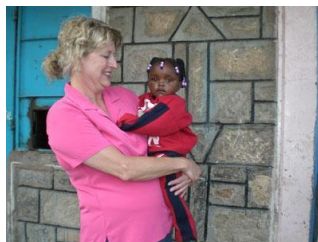
April 23, 30 and May 7, 14

Fear affects our lives on a personal, communal and global level. Join Sister Anna to courageously address the fear in our lives and use this fear to draw closer to God. Sister Anna Phiri has directed retreats in Africa, Canada and the U.S.

Call Anita at 464-1074 or email
anita.ricker@hshs.org.

UPDATE ON ORPHANAGE

Pixie's Recent Trip



Dear Friends of Stand Up
For Grace and the Children at By Grace Orphanage,

Thank you for all your continued support. The children are doing well. They are not experiencing any serious health problems and due to your contributions, they are eating healthy food. None of them are malnourished at this time. They begin their school break this week and will not return to school until May. During January many renovations were made at By Grace which should improve sanitary conditions and reduce health risks. Since May of 2014 SUFG has been paying the rent and electricity for By Grace and volunteer teachers' rooms. There are three to five teachers in a room. They do not work for money so their only compensation consists of meals at By Grace and a roof over their head. There are a few organizations that are helping with school supplies and saving money to help purchase land, but for the last year, SUFG is the only one funding food, water, rent, electric and medical supplies. We hope to continue to help with the rent, but our priority has always been the orphanage's food and water; however, if rent is not paid, obvious problems may result. If you or anyone you know would like to make a donation for rent or electricity or perhaps conduct a fundraiser, SUFG and the children at By Grace would really appreciate your help. When not in Nairobi, I am available to give presentations about SUFG as they can be arranged. I will be returning to By Grace at the end of May. This will be my 21st trip to Nairobi to volunteer at the orphanage. In the last decade I have seen many changes at the orphanage. I have seen the number of children and young adults who are being served at By Grace increase from 170 to over 300. The children have much more food to eat daily than they did ten years ago. There have been at least fifteen young people either graduate from college or are still attending college due to many sponsors from all over the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. Eight eighth-grade students have been given scholarships to boarding schools due to their excellent performance on the Kenyan national exam. Seniors who graduate continue to return to By Grace to help with the younger children. At least seven By Grace alumni have obtained decent jobs overseas as nannies or security guards. Many improvements to the building have been made to make By Grace a safer and healthier place to live. However, to keep these positive events occurring, there needs to be a continuation and increase of the present tax-free contributions that SUFG receives. One hundred percent of all donations received are used to help provide for the basic living and educational needs for the children at By Grace and other vulnerable children living in Kayole who were once living at By Grace. All trips to the orphanage by volunteers are paid for by themselves. Please continue to keep SUFG and the children of By Grace in your thoughts and prayers.

Asante Sana (Thank you),
Pixie Fennessey, President