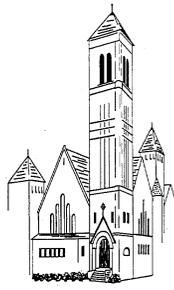


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Tower Notes

VOLUME 47

July 22, 2015

NUMBER 28

July 26, 2015

9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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 – Chapel
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary

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.*

**DECATUR
 CELEBRATION
 PARKING
 THE YOUTH'S
 BIGGEST FUND
 RAISER**

The Youth are renting parking spaces for the **Decatur Celebration held on August 7, 8 & 9.** One-time visit passes are \$5, or for \$20, you may rent a space for the entire weekend. The **weekend pass** allows you to come and go as often as you wish with the guarantee of a parking space during the times when the parking lot is monitored. You may also transfer the parking pass to a family or friends when you are not using it. The lot will be monitored on Friday, August 7, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., on Saturday, August 8, from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m., and on Sunday, August 9, from 12 noon until 8 p.m.



In addition, the Youth need volunteers to help monitor the parking lot. Two-hour shifts are available. Please call Christl in the church office or Pam Neeley at

413-8087 to volunteer. Thank you for your support in this fundraising effort.

For the next two Sundays, we will have a volunteer sheet in the Gathering Room for you to sign up. Bring your calendars to see if you have an opening or two to help the youth.
THANK YOU!



WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT

*Thurs., July 23, 2015, 5:30pm
 St. Nicholas Grille
 101 S. Main Street
 Be sure to RSVP!*

LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH FEED THE HUNGRY – July 25

First United Methodist, 201 W. North St., needs donations of desserts to feed the hungry for lunch at noon this Saturday. You can deliver pies (no cream, please), cakes or cookies from 9:30-11:30 to 201 W. North St. They would also like to have serving assistance for *Dinner Downtown* if you are free from 11:30 to 1:00.



ENJOYING MONTREAT

L to R: Olivia Bachtold, Kendall Eisenhauer, and Clara Ash

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER CONCERNS

Kathy Thornton was in an automobile accident Wednesday, July 15. She was not injured but went to St. Mary's for tests and is now home.

Linda Wiesner's father-in-law, Thomas "Eddie" Wiesner, died July 15, 2015. Linda is Ray and Lillian Landon's daughter. Our sympathy is extended to the Wiesner and Landon families.

Former member **Dan Lycan** of Manassas, VA and older brother of Jim Lycan, has been diagnosed with stage 4 throat cancer, which has spread to his liver as well.

Community members that have affected Decatur and recently died – among them are Bob Fallstrom, Betsy Stockard, and Mayor Mike McElroy.

THANK YOU

Thanks for the memories

Over 40 people visited India, compliments of Cathy and Chuck Force's presentation of their trip to New Delhi and the Golden Triangle. Thank you, Cathy and Chuck, for sharing your impressions of this country of contrasts. Thank you also to Andrew Taylor for preparing the pasta salads, to Jody Hantel for preparing and serving the drinks, to Carolyn Allin and Kelly Tohill for preparing the variety of delicious desserts, and to members of the Evangelism/Membership Committee for making this event possible.

Now, it's off to Dubai. Mark your calendar for SUNDAY, AUGUST 23RD, 4:00 – 6:00, to attend John Kay's presentation of his recent trip to Dubai, followed by a light supper.

First Presbyterian

With gratitude we say "thank you" for your recent gift of toiletries and hangers. Your generosity and willingness to support our organization that reaches so many people across central Illinois, is greatly appreciated.
Barb Blakey, Dove

Thank you, Earline Wisher and Jan Mandernach, for offering to volunteer for the August Newsletter.

CHURCH SCHOOL HOUR

July 26, 2015

9:00 Everyday Issues: Downstairs Youth area – The Gospel of Thomas – For two more Sunday mornings, July 26 and August 2, Tom Griffith will speak on the Gospel of Thomas by Ron Miller. You may pick up copies in the church office of this Sunday's chapter for study materials.

This unique guidebook leads you through the Gospel of Thomas, offering practices that help you translate Jesus's wisdom into a more fulfilling, enriching daily life. The goal of such daily practices is to become Jesus's twin.

10:15 a.m. Chapel Class – Chapel

MEMBERS IN PARK DISTRICT PLAYS

The Decatur Park District is presenting "*Dinosaurs before Dark*", made up of children from 1st grade to 5th grade, and "*Legally Blonde*", made up of junior high and high schoolers. Both are musicals and three First Pres members are taking part. **Grace Smith-Phillips** is in the *Dinosaurs* production and show times are July 31st at 7pm and August 1st at 2pm at the Civic Center. **Audrey Smith-Phillips** and **Kathryn Franklin** are in *Legally Blonde*, and it will be August 1st at 7pm and August 2nd at 2pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door or at the Park District office at 620 E. Riverside or by phone at 422-5911. Tickets are \$7.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION ON MONDAY, JULY 27 BY ILLINOIS PEOPLE'S ACTION (IPA)



First Presbyterian Church is an official member of IPA. If you want to make a positive difference in the health of future generations, join a small group of us from several IPA member Decatur churches to travel to Springfield to deliver a message to an organization that has the power to influence an industry whose products are known to negatively affect our health.

Here's the plan: meet at First Presbyterian parking lot no later than 9:00 a.m. this coming Monday, July 27 to carpool to the Capitol Building in Springfield. There we'll join with IPA representatives from other churches in Decatur, Bloomington, Peoria, Champaign and Springfield to walk a couple blocks to demonstrate at 10:30 that ordinary citizens, 'i.e. *people power*,' care about the environment. We plan to return to Decatur by noon. This action will be part of a nationwide day called '*Moral Monday*.' Please call us at 877-4789 to say you will be joining us.

Recall Bill Keagle's message about miracles last Sunday. We all can be a part of making a miracle happen.

Paul & Verlyn Rosenberger



VERY GOOD

July 26 SUNDAY GREETERS

Before Service

#1 Donna Washburn #4 Ray and Lillian Landon

#2 Ron and Earline Wisher #5 Bob Bullock

#3 Paul and Verlyn Rosenberger

Computer Tech

Jackie Evans

Web Team

Theresa Boes

Andy Rauff

Media Tech

Jackie Evans



WORSHIP SERVICES

July 26, 2015

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rev. John Kay, preaching

George Batson, 8:00 a.m. lay leader

Jackie Lawton, 9:15 a.m. service leader

Mary Turner, 10:30 a.m. lay leader

Scripture

Psalm 14

John 6:11-12

Sermon

"Miraculous Living"

July Ushers

Myung Kim, captain

Joli Cirks

Debbie and Ralph Czerwinski

Eric Nevitt-sub

Nancy and Tom Force

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:

July 26



Purchase Sunday flowers in memory of your loved

ones- 429-4195 or
fpdec@comcast.net.



1ST PRES STRING BAND PRACTICE

Every Wednesday at

5:00PM in the Choir Room until

the AC is fixed – All levels

welcome. Call Doug at 521-1314.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

We are using a study guide,

"The Present Word" and

applying it to our modern lives.

We meet from 7 to 8 each

Thursday morning at church.

Come, try us on for size!

Questions? Contact Jerry

Atkins, Dick Fiala, Paul

Rosenberger, George Batson or

Ray Landon

STRING BAND



In its 5th year of existence, the string band continues to meet on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. here at First Pres. Over 50 performances have been given at retirement residences, nursing homes, club events, outdoor gatherings, and church services.

The string band welcomes new members at the Wednesday, 5:00 p.m. sessions, and players don't have to perform in public. Musicians at any level are welcome to come and have fun playing old-time music together.

For more information, or to schedule the group, please contact Doug Nicholson at (217)521-1314 or dougnicholson2@gmail.com.

GRANDMA'S YELLOW PIE PLATE, OR WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH ALL THIS STUFF?



For anyone who has downsized or cleaned out a loved one's home, they know the decisions go on and on. How can we make this easier and more satisfying?

"The Workbook – Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate? –" is designed to be an effective tool for a variety of family groups working to make decisions in different situations.

The Health Ministry Committee will lead a 3-Sunday Adult Ed class – August 16, 24, 31 – using this workbook. We also know the wisdom among members of the congregation from their personal experiences in making decisions about who gets what and why. We want to bring together the thought provoking ideas of the workbook with the real life experiences we all may have had.

I will make copies of the worksheets we will use, or you can purchase the workbook yourself at www.bookstores.umn.edu – (Enter "books"; enter "UMN extension publications"; enter "family" and scroll to bottom, left row and enter on Grandma's Pie Plate book.

Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate? Workbook

A Guide to Passing on Personal Possessions

University of Minnesota/Extension 2011

We look forward to exploring this very practical and important topic with you. One goal is to foster family communications that will lead to smoother transitions.

Now, I must get back to cleaning out the closet of all that "stuff" or maybe I should take a nap first.

Phyllis, Parish Nurse

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
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



When you make a commitment

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.

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.

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.

Faith in Action needs volunteers to serve frail homebound individuals ages 55 and older. Service needs include friendly visits and calls, transportation, shopping, minor home repair and yard maintenance, letter writing and reading, respite for caregivers and occasional meal preparation. Volunteers may serve on a regular or occasional basis. Call 428-0013 to inquire.



Please remember our members, friends, and relatives in retirement communities and assisted living facilities:

The Glenwood: Mary Elizabeth Platt

Heartland: Bill Grieve, John Winick

Hickory Point Christian Village:

Louise Bear, Esther Grissom, Festus Paul

Imboden Creek Living Center:

Norma Stephens, Jean Peak

McKinley Court Care: Ed Downs

Primrose Retirement Community:

Julia Bright

The Willows of Hamburg, Lexington, KY:

Joanne Sly

Wesley Willows, Rockford, Illinois:

Maxine Mussulman

PRAYER SHAWL NEWS

Following our recent Prayer Shawl Blessing on



Sunday, Connie May delivered 12 blessed baby blankets to the hospitals. THANKS to everyone involved for such a great summer 'small' projects idea!

We will continue to accept more gifts over the summer: shawls, lap robes, baby blankets, quilts, etc. but we wanted to get some baby blankets to the hospitals as soon as they were blessed.

Thanks also to Mary Turner who helped us 'Showcase' our Prayer Shawl ministry in the Gathering Room recently. It would be great to have a few more people join our group this fall. The group is fun, and we are always open to teaching you.

Take care! Cathy Force



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s 4th Big Tent conference.

World Mission is offering 10 scholarships to young adults (19-35) for Big Tent. The scholarships can cover up to \$315 of registration, leaving \$80 for the participant to cover. For information on how to apply, contact Rachel.Anderson@pcusa.org.