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February 28, 2016

Volume 48 Number 4

Ann Elder, Compilation; Sue Grieve, Design and Layout; Rick Koetje, Editor

Understanding World Religions

Rev. Dr. Bill Keagle and Rev. Miley Palmer continue a 6-week class discussion on **Understanding World Religions** during Lent, through March 13-16. Class covers the same material three different times: Sunday morning at 9:00 am, Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm (both at First Presbyterian), and Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. (at First United Methodist). Child care is available if requested in advance.

Lent soup suppers continue on **Tuesdays** from 5:30-6:30 pm for six weeks at First Pres. A soup and sandwich meal (\$5 per person or \$15 per family) is offered in the dining room before each 7 pm World Religion class. Please call the church office (429-4195) or sign up in the Gathering room by Monday of every week so food can be ordered based on those who plan to attend. Classes and supper are open to the public with meal reservations made in advance.

Something Different for Easter at First Pres.



After much discussion at its last meeting, the Session voted to concur with a recommendation from several committees that we change our worship schedule on Easter morning. Many have expressed interest in having more opportunities for fellowship, a sentiment that led to the idea of having a congregation-wide Easter Breakfast in the dining room. Because of the effort this will involve and the festive nature of worship on Easter, it was also decided to offer only one service at 10:00 a.m.

So, we want to get the word out early and often to let everyone know the plans.

Easter Breakfast – from 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Offering egg casseroles, breads, juice and coffee.

A free-will offering will be received. RSVP by March 20!

One Festive Service of Worship – 10:00 a.m.
Using musical elements of all the services

Mark your calendars and invite family and friends. If you'd like to help out with the breakfast, either by preparing food or helping to serve, feel free to call Cathy Force or Carolyn Allin.

We hope this plan will add to our sense of unity and joy on this day of great celebration.

SERVICES	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

Deadline for the next issue is **Monday, March 7 at noon.**



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Coming Events . . .

Wednesday, February 24



Prayer Shawl Group

10:00 a.m.

Meet in the Library to knit and converse.



Caregivers Support Group

2:30 p.m.

You are not alone. There is support for caregivers. Discuss issues and take home tips. (Meet in the chapel on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays).

Understanding World Religions



6:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

Thursday, February 25

First Friends, 10:30 p.m.

“WINTER BIRDING”

On Thursday, February 25, Richie Wolf, Rock Springs Nature Center Manager, will speak about winter birding at various sites of the Macon County Conservation District. He will also present an invitation to visit an outstanding exhibit in the large gallery room at Rock Springs about the 50th anniversary of the Macon County Conservation District.

Our Parish Nurse, Phyllis McPherron, will give us some health news. Persons of all ages are always welcome to join in the fun, starting with conversation at 10:30 a.m. There will be a few light snacks to go with some hot coffee.

Women’s Night Out, 5:30 p.m.

Join us at Fuji’s for food and entertainment. RSVP

Sunday, February 28, 3rd Sunday in Lent



Understanding World Religions

9:00 a.m., Dining Room

Tuesday, March 1

Lent Soup Supper, 5:30 p.m.

Understanding World Religions, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 2

- Parish Visitors, 9:30 a.m., Gathering Room
- Caregivers Support Group, 2:30 p.m.
- String Band practice resumes, 5:00 p.m.
- **Taizé Service, 6:15 p.m., chapel**
- Understanding World Religions, 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist

Thursday, March 3

- Men’s Bible Study will meet at the home of Paul Rosenberger.

Sunday, March 6

- *First Sunday* canned giving for Northeast
- Sale of coffee and oil in the Gathering Room
- Understanding World Religions, 9:00 a.m.
- Teen Church School (7th-12th grades), 9:00 a.m., lower level
- Children’s Church School, 10:30 a.m.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

CHURCH
LEADERSHIP

In addition to receiving the monthly reports of the treasurer, standing committees, and program staff, at its stated meeting on February 15, 2016, Session –

- elected Carolyn Allin as Ruling Elder Commissioner to Presbytery for 2016.
- transferred the membership of René and Helen Corcoran to First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, Florida.
- received, with regret and thanks, the resignation from Session and as Chair of the Facilities Committee of Richard Sublett.
- concurred with the request of the Worship & Music and Administration committees to guarantee minimum remuneration, at the rate charged for weddings, for staff who provide support for funerals, if that remuneration is not provided by families or the funeral home.
- approved the AIA contract for the services of BLDD and Devine Engineering in the amount of \$25,000 for the completion of construction documents, assistance in the bidding process and periodic inspection of work performed, pending further conversation with the Administration Committee.
- created a Strategic Advisory Committee whose purpose will be reviewing current church activities and goals, investigating new opportunities or trends relevant to First Presbyterian Church, and proposing initiatives or programs that will further the mission of First Presbyterian Church over the next three to ten years, and asked the Nominating Committee to nominate seven members, representative of the congregation, to serve.
- acted on changes of membership status at the request of members Carol Fritz and Taylor Scharfenberg Wroblewski.
- set one worship service at 10:00 AM on Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016, preceded by an all-church breakfast in the dining room.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Elmer Turner** is scheduled for knee surgery on Friday, February 26.
- **Richard Sublett** is scheduled for lung surgery on March 11.
- **Ron Wisher** is improving at McKinley Ct. in room 311 for rehab on his back.
- **Mary Ann Grohne** is recovering from pneumonia; no visitors or calls during this time.

† Our sympathy is extended to Jim Lycan's son-in-law Nate Allen. His father recently died in a fire.

NEW PHONE NUMBER

Carolyn Allin no longer uses the home phone number listed in the directory. Her cell number is 847-226-0480.

THANK YOU

THANKS to the **Adult Ministry and Worship committees** for their soup donations and help for the first two Lent suppers. We've had flavorful meals and wonderful fellowship before our interesting 'World Religion' class discussions. Participants can drop in any week.

Dear Friends,

How wonderful to hear from you! As I read your names, I could see you. Thank you for remembering me! I just wish I could thank you in person. I like Columbia but have missed Decatur very much, and have wished I lived there now. Thanks very much for the pretty (100th birthday) card and most of all, remembering me.

Love to all,
Pauline Hesemann

(Read full letter on board in Gathering Room.)

CONGRATULATIONS

Margi & Doug Nicholson have a new granddaughter Jocelyn, born February 12, 1996. Big brother is Bennett; mom is Kate, Margi's daughter.

Culinary Cookoff

Saturday February 27, 6:00 p.m.

Team Richland competes against Team Good Sam. Dinner benefits Good Samaritan Inn. Cost is \$30 per person or \$300 per table of 10. For tickets, call Julie at 429-1455, see Connie Requarth, or buy at the door.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Servants Among the Powerful and The Powerless" Adventures in Mission Trip 2017



The youth and adults will be attending the 2017 Presidential Inauguration & Parade in Washington, DC, January 17-21 as well as doing a Mission Project in DC (i.e. DC Central Soup Kitchen). The group will be staying at the Washington Seminar Center in Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church. Are you interested in attending this multi-generational event? If so, please contact Brenda Aymer at 217-791-0493.

Renovation Plans Underway

In recent weeks, we have made significant progress toward beginning the renovation of our HVAC systems.

- ▶The Facilities Committee met on 2/1/2016 along with Robert Devine, *Devine Engineering*, and John Whitlock, BLDD. It was decided to create a contract for the proposed work as soon as possible.
- ▶The BLDD contract was received on 2/8 and then reviewed on 2/10 by the Administration Committee, with the helpful guidance of Dan Austin.
- ▶On 2/15, the session approved the contract, pending final clarification on several points with John Whitlock.
- ▶On Monday 2/16, we met with BLDD and had a satisfactory discussion.
- ▶The revised contract was received on Friday 2/19, reviewed and signed by Elmer Turner.
- ▶The Facilities Committee reviewed the contract on Monday 2/22 and determined that Charlie Platt will be our representative for the project, along with Jim Lycan.
- ▶BLDD expects the construction documents to be ready by the end of next week. We hope to meet again on 3/7 to review the construction documents, approve contractors, and begin the bidding process.

After lots of preparation, things are now moving very quickly. We expect the bidding process to take no more than three weeks. Soon thereafter, we expect work to begin.

John Kay –
For the Facilities and Administration Committees

March Birthdays



- Ryan Crowe – 1
- Anna Mae Carlson – 2
- Jack T. Brown – 3
- Glynda Hagymasy – 4
- John Weakly – 4
- Patti Weakly – 5
- Karen Yepsen – 5
- Tyler Lycan – 6
- Bruce Mason – 6
- Mac Moore – 7
- Shirley Moore – 9
- Sally Wachter – 9
- Chrissy Ellis – 11
- Nancy Law – 12
- David Marshall – 12
- Tom Griffith – 16
- Micah Hale – 16
- Anne Hostetler – 16
- Ellen Noblitt – 17
- Richard Sublett – 17
- Sue Weinstein – 18
- Sherri Arnold – 19
- Jaylyn Hale -- 19
- Kim Derigo – 20
- Corey Moniot – 20
- Miley Palmer – 20
- Carlos Porter – 20
- Bev Ritter – 20
- Kirk Schmidt – 20
- Gayle Bruckner – 21
- Linda Castleman -- 21
- Brett Eisenhauer - 21
- Phyllis McPherron – 21
- Bill Towns -- 21
- Doug Nicholson – 23
- Adam Law – 24
- Lexie Bales – 25
- Andy Hinch – 25
- Donna Washburn – 25
- Larry Wiesner – 26
- Betsy Tanner -- 30
- Pierce Bruckner – 31
- Stu Ellis – 31
- Gib Maines – 31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h2 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">March 2016</h2>		(7am-AA) 1 8:30am Money Counters 10:00am DARTA Board Mtg. - DR 10:30am Staff Meeting – L 11:30am Worship Planning – L 5:00pm Adult Ministry Mtg. - L 5:15pm Tower Ringers - BR 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper-DR 7:00pm World Religions - DR	(7am-AA) 2 9:30am Parish Visitors – GR 10:30am Backpack Assembly-L 12:00pm Child Min – Spires Res 1:00pm Health Min. Display - L 5:00pm String Band Practice– DR 5:15pm Church St. Bells – BR 6:15pm Taizé Service - Chapel 6:30pm World Religions – FUM 6:30pm Tenor & Bass – CR 7:00pm Choir Practice – CR	(7am-AA) 3 7:00am Men's Bible Study – at Rosenberger Residence 9:00am Volunteers @ Good Sam PM – Matter of Balance Set-up	(7am-AA) 4 8:30am Matter of Balance Training Class - DR	(7am-AA) 5 12:00pm Stand Up For Grace Board Meeting - GR
6 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 4th Sunday in Lent 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Christian Education 9:00am Teen Church – YA 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:15am Chapel Class 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Children's Church School 4:00pm Serendipity – PO	(7am-AA) 7 8:30am Money Counters 4:45pm Facilities Mtg. – L 6:00pm Peacemaking Mtg.-GR 6:00pm Al-Anon Teen – YA 6:30pm Mission Mtg. – DR 7:00pm Worship Mtg. – L	(7am-AA) 8 10:30am Staff Meeting – L 5:15pm Tower Ringers - BR 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper-DR 6:30pm Finance Meeting - L 7:00pm World Religions - DR	(7am-AA) 9 8:30am Tower Notes Folders – L 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group - C 10:30am Backpack Assembly-L 2:30pm Caregiver's Support – C 5:00pm String Band Practice– DR 5:15pm Church St. Bells – BR 6:30pm World Religions – FUM 6:30pm Tenor & Bass – CR 7:00pm Choir Practice – CR	(7am-AA) 10 7:00am Men's Bible Study - GR 5:15pm Evang. & Member - L	(7am-AA) 11 12:00pm Reports for Session are due.	
13 5th Sunday in Lent 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Christian Education 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:15am Chapel Class 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Children's Church School 11:30am Deacons' Meeting – DR 2:30pm Davidson Baby Shower - DR 4:00pm Serendipity – PO 6:00 pm Just Flicks – at CCC <i>César Chávez</i>	(7am-AA) 14 8:30am Money Counters 9:00am CC United Way Mtg - C 12:00pm CC Board Mtg. - DR 1:00pm Pink Smoke – C 5:15pm Adult Ministry - L 6:00pm Al-Anon Teen – YA	(7am-AA) 15 10:30am Staff Meeting – L 11:30am Worship Planning – L 4:00pm Health Min. Mtg – L 5:15pm Tower Ringers - BR 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper-DR 7:00pm World Religions - DR	(7am-AA) 16 10:30am Backpack Assembly-L 5:00pm String Band Practice– DR 5:15pm Church St. Bells – BR 5:30pm Administration Mtg. - L 6:30pm World Religions – FUM 6:30pm Tenor & Bass – CR 7:00pm Choir Practice – CR	(7am-AA) 17 7:00am Men's Bible Study - GR St. Patrick's Day 	(7am-AA) 18 Set-up for DKG Mtg - DR	(7am-AA) 19 8:30am DKG Meeting - DR
20 Palm Sunday 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Christian Education 9:00am Teen Church – YA 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:15am Chapel Class 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Children's Church School 4:00pm Serendipity – PO	(7am-AA) 21 8:30am Money Counters 9:00am CC United Way Mtg - C 6:00pm Al-Anon Teen – YA 7:00pm Session Meeting - GR	(7am-AA) 22 10:30am Staff Meeting – L 5:15pm Tower Ringers – BR	(7am-AA) 23 8:30am Tower Notes Folders – L 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group - C 10:30am Backpack Assembly-L 2:30pm Caregiver's Support – C 5:00pm String Band Practice– DR 5:15pm Church St. Bells – BR	(7am-AA) 24 Maundy Thursday 7:00am Men's Bible Study - GR 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service – Sanctuary	(7am-AA) 25 Good Friday 12:00pm Office Closes	(7am-AA) 26 Sunday Brunch Set-up
27 Easter Sunday One Great Hour of Sharing 8:30am Easter Brunch - DR 10:00am One Festive Service of Worship 4:00pm Serendipity – PO	(7am-AA) 28 Office Closed Easter Holiday 9:00am CC United Way Mtg - C 6:00pm Al-Anon Teen – YA	(7am-AA) 29 8:30am Money Counters 10:30am Staff Meeting – YA 11:30am Worship Planning – L 5:15pm Tower Ringers - BR	(7am-AA) 30 10:30am Backpack Assembly-L 5:00pm String Band Practice– DR 5:15pm Church St. Bells – BR 6:30pm Tenor & Bass – CR 7:00pm Choir Practice – CR	(7am-AA) 31 7:00am Men's Bible Study - GR 10:30am First Friends @ FUM	<p style="color: purple; font-style: italic;">"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." - Charles Dickens</p>	