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June 8, 2016

Volume 48 Number 11
Ann Elder, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor



PLEASE BRING TREATS FOR GOOD SAMARITAN INN

Our NEXT Sunday to prepare and serve the meal at Good Samaritan Inn is SUNDAY, June 26. Treats for 300 will be needed for that meal. We welcome donations of pre-wrapped treats such as Little Debbie Nutty Bars, Oatmeal Pies, Rice Krispie Treats, etc. Please put any donations in the kitchen by **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JUNE 24**. Your help is always appreciated. Thanks! *New Song mission group and Deacons*

We are 1/5 the way there!

CONGRATS TO OUR GRADUATES

COLLEGE:

Tamica Hatchett - graduated from Millikin University – She had recently been our nursery caretaker, but recently accepted a fulltime position at Webster Cantrell Hall.

Tyler Lycan, son of Jim Lycan, will be receiving his Master’s degree in Global International Security from St. Andrews College in St. Andrews, Scotland.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Olivia Bachtold - graduated from High School - was home-schooled; She is the daughter of Beth and Brad Bachtold.

Kathryn Franklin - graduated from Sangamon Valley High School – Kathryn is a member and daughter of Marsha and Judson DeVore.

Rudi Mathieson - graduated from Warrensburg High School – Rudi is the son of Ann and Mike and grandson of Skip and Sally Mathieson.

Azure Nicole - graduated from MacArthur High School – He is the oldest son of Jaylyn Hale.

8th GRADE:

Audrey Smith-Phillips graduated from Garfield Montessori and will be going to MacArthur High School. She is the daughter of Peter and Pattie Smith-Phillips.

Will Yepsen graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes – He is looking at High Schools and is the son of Karen and Matt Yepsen.

PRE-SCHOOL:

Arissa Hale graduated from pre-school and will be going to Kindergarten next year; she is the daughter of Jaylyn and Micah Hale.

Caregivers Support Group is cancelled for the months of June, July, and August. We will restart in September.

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| OUR SERVICES | 8:00 a.m. | Worship Service – Chapel |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Christian Education Hour – Everyday Issues Class |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Teen Church School – Resume in September |
| | 9:15 a.m. | NewSong Worship Service – Chapel |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Worship Service – Sanctuary |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Children’s Church School – Resume in September |

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Coming Events . . .

Thursday, June 9



Men's Bible Study, 7:00 a.m.

We are using a study guide, "The Present Word," and applying it to our modern lives. We will meet from 7 to 8 each Thursday morning at the home of Paul Rosenberger. Come share the Bible. Call Paul at 877-4789 by the evening before to ensure that the Bible group is meeting.

Sunday, June 12

Everyday Issues, 9:00 a.m.

We will meet the New Executive Director for DOVE, Christine Gregory, and get her update on DOVE (a coalition of religious organizations, volunteers and advocates seeking to coordinate and address unmet human needs and social injustices.).

Quilt of Valor, 11:30 a.m., Gathering Rm.



You are welcome to attend a *Quilt of Valor* Presentation for Jack Brown in the Gathering Room immediately following the 10:30 worship service.

Deacons, 11:45 a.m., Dining room

Thursday, June 16

Men's Bible Study, 7:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 19

Everyday Issues, 9:00 a.m.

We'll learn all about an Islamic college student named Inas. She will be sharing her impressions of her trip to Jordan.

Monday, June 20

Women's Bible Study, 1:30 p.m.

Meet downstairs in the Adult Classroom.

Wednesday, June 22

String Band, 2:30 p.m.

String Band performs at Eagle Ridge, 875 W. McKinley Ave.

Thursday, June 23

Men's Bible Study, 7:00 a.m.,

First Friends, 10:00 a.m., 1ST PRES

Women's Night Out, 5:30 p.m.

We are heading to Coney McKane's downtown. Please call in your reservation so there is enough seating for everyone—429-4195.

Looking Forward . . .

Saturday, June 25

- **Dinner Downtown**, FUM, 11:30-1:00

Bring pies (no cream, please), cakes or cookies from 9:30-11:30 to 201 W. North St. or help serve if you are free from 11:30 to 1:00.

Sunday, June 26

- **Everyday Issues**, 9:00 a.m., Dining room
Norm Jensen will speak on climate change.
- **Between services**, Gathering Room
Phyllis and the Health Ministry team will have a display on mosquitoes and the Zika virus.

Thursday, June 30

- **Men's Bible Study**, 7:00 a.m., at the home of Paul Rosenberger; call Paul at 877-4789 by the evening before to ensure that the Bible group is meeting.

Sunday, July 3, Communion

- **First Sunday** – Please bring food donations to all services for Northeast Community Fund, or on Monday morning.
- **Peacemaking coffee and olive oil sales**
Support Equal Exchange with your purchases.

Wednesday, July 6

- **Staff Retreat** – The program and office staff will be away from the office for a retreat at Millikin from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Monday-Friday, July 11-15

- **Vacation Bible School**

9:00 a.m.-noon

Volunteers are still needed. Call Cathy Beube at 620-7563. The theme is Cave Quest: Following Jesus, the Light of the World.



REVELATION CLASSES to begin



Beginning July 10 to August 28 new classes on the Book of REVELATION: Not what you think it is. It's NOT the end of the world! It is a description in symbolic language of how God works in the world in every age.

Look forward to either Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. or Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m.

Mark it on your calendar now.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Pat Nevitt** had surgery May 26 and is home doing well.
- **Carol Derigo** is in Decatur Memorial Hospital, room 5147.
- **Marguerite Curtis** fell from her wheelchair and broke ribs on both sides. She is in rehab.
- **Sandy Peterson's** arm continues to heal after surgery.

In Memoriam

*Arthur "Pierce" Bruckner
March 31, 1933 - May 28, 2016*

*Uphold us now, O Lord, as we entrust him to your
boundless love and eternal care.
{A Celebration of Life Service will be
Saturday, June 11, 2016, at 11:00 a.m.}*

In Memoriam

*Lillian Landon
April 30, 1934 – June 4, 2016*

*Uphold us now, O Lord. As we entrust her to your
boundless love and eternal care.
{Lillians's service will be Saturday, July 2, 2016.}*

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Gayle Bruckner on the death of her husband Pierce.

Our sympathy is also extended to the family of Ray Landon on the death of his wife Lillian.

Our sympathy is also extended to the family of Ed Beck. Ed died May 21, 2016, and was the husband of deceased member Janet Beck. Their daughter Kate was also a member here and preceded him in death.

Our sympathy is also extended to Jeannie Rade on the death of her brother Ronald Morris who died May 23, 2016. He was from Colp, IL.

Our sympathy is also extended to Linda Castleman and her family. Her mother's sister Georgia died at age 104 on June 4, 2016.

NEW ADDRESS

Marge Wollrab has moved to Idaho:
Edgewood Plantation Place
3921 Kessinger Lane, #44
Boise, ID 83703
Ph: 208-954-5504

THANK YOU

❖ Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your continued support of By Grace and the beautiful children and young people who are part of the By Grace family. I am again amazed at the generosity and support all of you give to Stand Up For Grace. Thanks for your donations, help, thoughts and prayers. I hope everyone has a healthy and happy summer.

Thanks,
Pixie Fennessey, President, Stand Up For Grace

THANK YOU

- ❖ *Thank you for the many cards, calls, and especially, prayers before and after my recent surgery! My Church Family is awesome!! Sandy Peterson*
- ❖ *I sincerely appreciate the reception after the service in the cemetery; also, the prayer shawl which is comforting when I have the A/C on. My family and friends appreciated it too; you are kind and generous to even "silent members".
Many thanks,
Shirley Ann Blickensderfer*



- ❖ The children and youth ministries team would like to thank you for being so generous in giving to the Pentecost Offering. The total raised was \$1397 and 40% was presented to Webster Cantrell Hall for \$558.80. The Pentecost offering will make it possible for five children to attend church camp. They loved Nadine Wimmer's gift of flowers. They are very grateful. Thank you again for helping the Webster-Cantrell children and youth.
Kathy Beube and the team
- ❖ Thank you to the choir and musicians for the luncheon and musical entertainment. Nearly 100 people enjoyed First Pres' musical talent in *Sum-Sum-Summertime*.

General Assembly Connections



The 222nd General Assembly of our Denomination will begin its biennial meeting on June 18 in Portland, OR, using the theme, "The Hope in Our Calling," from Ephesians 1:18.

All of the plenary sessions of the meeting may be viewed online by going to www.pcusa.org and following the links for the Assembly. Later that day, the Assembly will elect the next Co-Moderators who will serve for two years. On Friday morning (9/24), they will elect the next Stated Clerk.

Committee meetings will be held from Sunday evening through Wednesday morning. Final plenary meetings run from Wednesday afternoon through Saturday morning.

Elements from the opening Worship have been adapted for our service on June 19. Dr. Kay plans to be in attendance and looks forward to providing an overview of events and decisions soon thereafter.

Camp Carew



Camp Carew is for children kindergarten through 12th grade. Camping begins as early as June 12th. To learn what Camp Carew has to offer and to see the

camp schedule, go to www.campcarew.com. In the green bar section at the top, click on "Camp Registration Forms and 2016 Brochure"; then in the section under the green bar, click on "2016 Brochure.pdf." Please contact Kathy Beube at 620-7563 to register. Family camp is scheduled for September 23-25.

PNC Update

June 6, 2016

First of all, thank you for your continued prayers and patience. We continue to receive Personal Information Forms (PIFs) from prospective candidates. We continue to meet regularly to read and discuss these PIFs to determine who might be a good match for our congregation and to make additional contacts. We have had numerous Skype interviews. Several candidates we felt were good matches withdrew their candidacy. However, we are not giving up! We know that God has a good match for us out there somewhere!

Again, your prayers, patience, and support are greatly appreciated.

Susan Moore (Chair), Linda Castleman, Dan Foster, Sue Grieve, Ryan Holler, Jim Lycan, Harriett Sadowski, and Peter Smith-Phillips

Pastor Nominating Committee

Community Needs

Domestic Violence Shelter – 302 S. Union

409 Spray Cleaner and antibacterial wipes

Comet cleanser and Dawn dish soap

Lysol disinfectant spray and multi-purpose cleaners

Brooms and new vacuum cleaners

Paper towels and toilet paper

Juice boxes and snacks for children

Homeward Bound – 788 E. Clay

Laundry detergent and fabric softener sheets

Multi-purpose cleaners and bleach

Dish soap and sponges

Shampoo, soap and lotion

Toothbrushes and toothpaste

Deodorant, shaving razors and shaving cream

Combs and diapers, all sizes

Baby wipes and Ziploc bags, all sizes

Meeting God and Others

Will

Will was a retired book binder, who was rather round and had plenty of opinions. Working in the grocery store as a stocker, he didn't seem to fit the rest of us who were all in college and taking this job because it paid nearly double the current minimum wage salary in 1988.

I got to know Will because we'd often be working side by side to open all the boxes of various products that needed to be priced as required under Michigan law. In general, that took about 3 hours before we could then transfer the products to the shelves.

Not long after I started working, Will got to talking with me. "You go to church, don't you?" he asked out of the blue one night. I said that I did. "And you are Christian Reformed, aren't you?" he continued. I looked rather puzzled since we'd never talked about that, but told him that yes, I was in fact.

Now it was my turn to question since I wondered how he might guess all of this about me, given the stocker persona of not really attending to church type topics. His answer was quick.

"You don't talk like the others, you never swear, and you are polite all the time. Even when the store closes you keep your uniform tie on until we leave. And you work really hard even when the boss isn't around."

I suppose that Dutch Protestant work ethic isn't so tough to spot in a crowd of rowdy stereotypical college students who stay up all night anyway.

I soon found out that during the 1950s Will was also Christian Reformed in a downtown church in Grand Rapids. At the time, he had divorced his wife and because of that, was excommunicated from the church. He had not been to any church since that date. I also found out that his aged mother was still praying for his soul, hoping to see him turn around as her last wish -- to see him return to church and to God.

I really didn't know what to say about all this. And I figured he would have every reason to hate God, the church, and church people like me.

But Will continued to talk with me every night. He'd make jokes and try to get me to drink with the others or swear or badmouth the boss. I didn't do any of that. His jokes became a challenge to which I just didn't budge or close the door or strike back. I'd just smile and joke along with him. And never call him "Old Man Stocker" like everyone else did. He was Will to me.

{end of part 1; part 2, next issue}

RK