



Tower Notes (USPS 634720) is published Semimonthly, 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](mailto:fpdec@comcast.net)



February 15, 2017

Volume 49 Number 3

Ann Elder, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

T  
O  
W  
E  
R  
N  
O  
T  
E  
S



Lent Begins  
Ash Wednesday

**LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AND CLASS**

Wednesday March 1 - April 5, 2017

This year’s Lenten season will offer something for everyone – food, fellowship, and learning!

Beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 1, there will be a soup supper every Wednesday at 5:15pm. On Ash Wednesday, the supper will be followed by a brief informal time of worship in the dining room. (There will be no TAIZE’ worship that night.) For the next 5 weeks, supper will be followed by a class from 6:00 – 6:45, also in the dining room. This will allow choir members to participate in everything before choir practice.

This year’s class gets its theme from Psalm 42 which suggests that we desire God’s presence like a deer longs for water. The class will be called, “*Thirsty for God*” and will focus on the many different ways that we seek God in worship.

Weekly Wednesday night Soup Suppers will be scheduled 5:15-6:00 p.m. in the dining room beginning Ash Wednesday. With everyone’s help, there will be a simple meal of donated soups to go with bread, veggie tray, fruit and drinks. **Please sign up for the family meals in the Gathering Room or call the church office (429-4195) by Sunday, February 26**, so the dining room and food will be ready. Mark your calendars now to be a part of this Lenten group which combines Christian Education with thoughtful discussion, delicious food and great fellowship.

Childcare is available for infants thru age 12 during Ash Wednesday service and the Lenten study time. For planning purposes, parents should R.S.V.P. to Kathy at 620-7563, or message her on Facebook.



**WITH YOUR DONATIONS, THE YOUTH SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY COLLECTED \$506.68 FOR GOOD SAMARITAN INN.**

There is a bond that unites all people, regardless of the other distinctions we make in life – race, gender, religion, nationality, and class. The bond is the image of God we see others. We “do good” to all, no matter who they are. For they, like us, are created in the image of God. Thank you for taking action and caring for the less fortunate.

**Deadline** for the next issue is **Monday, February 27 at noon**

# Calendar . . .

## Sunday, February 19

8:00, 9:15 & 10:30am Worship Services

9:00 – Everyday Issues

9:00 – Teen Church School

10:30 – Children’s Church School

4:00pm – Installation of Pastors

5:00 – Reception follows

## Monday, February 20

7:00pm – Session Meeting

## Wednesday, February 22

10:00am – Prayer Shawl Group

4:00pm – String Band Practice

## Thursday, February 23

10:30am – First Friends, First Presbyterian Church

5:30pm – Women’s Night Out @ Il Forno, 1423 E. Mound

## Saturday, February 25

9:30-11:30am – Feed the Hungry - First United Methodist – Donate desserts to feed the hungry this Saturday. Deliver pies (no cream), cakes or cookies to 201 W. North St., or help serve from 11:30-1:00 p.m.

## Sunday, February 26

8:00, 9:15 & 10:30am Worship Services

9:00 – Everyday Issues

9:00 – Teen Church School

10:30 – Children’s Church School

## NEW ADDRESS

Dan & Ann Austin  
21 Crista Ann Ct.  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
(309) 585-2801

## PASTORS’ OFFICE DAYS

Bob – Tues., Wed. and Friday  
Jean – Mon., Tues. and Thursday  
Visitors are welcome.

## TWO VERY DIFFERENT “HOMES”

Everyday Issues on February 19 and 26



Sunday, February 19: Our guest speaker will be a Millikin student, Mehrangez (Meg) Rahmatova – “My Escape to Freedom and Education.” Meg left her family and country of Tajikistan at the age of 15 as part of the U.S. State Department's Future Leaders Exchange Program, one of five chosen from her country. Upon her return home, she discovered her family had arranged her marriage to a man she'd never met, whose family lived in a different village. This prompted her escape back to the Western world. Come hear this brave woman's story.

Sunday, February 26: Diane Drew will join us to update us on the agency CHELP (Community Home Environment Learning Project - Home Health Care Service) and all it has to offer people in our community.

In Memoriam



Festus Wade Paul

August 29, 1923 - February 2, 2017

Uphold us now, O Lord, as we entrust our beloved choir director of 30 years (1965-1995) to your boundless love and eternal care.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Earl Carpunky** is home from the hospital.

**Naomi Davis** has returned home from Hickory Point Christian Village.

**Marty Grohne** is in rehab at Hickory Point Christian Village.

**Sally Krigbaum** is at Hickory Point Christian Village, rm. 109, for rehab after hip surgery.

**Mike Lowe** is at Fair Haven Christian Home.

**Virginia "Gini" Maines** broke her leg and is at Hickory Point Christian Village for rehab

**Dave Marshall** has returned home.

**Pat Nevitt**

**Verylyn Rosenberger** is recovering from bronchitis.

**Gary Smalley**

**Bill Towns** will be moving to a nursing home in Clinton.



**Joan Brown** has returned to Primrose, 1145 W. Arbor Drive, Apt. 129 and her cell phone number is 329-2360. You are welcome to send Joan a card.

**Jack Brown** is at Heartland, Room 163.

**Johanna Brown**, First Pres visitor, is home from the hospital.

Our sympathy is extended to Jerry and Barbara Redford and family on the recent death (January 28, 2017) of their great-granddaughter Emelia Pope, age 2 ½. Emilia’s parents are Chris and Brea Pope, and grandparents are Kent and Chris Pope.

Our sympathy is also extended to the family of Festus Paul who died February 2, 2017, at age 94.

## Calendar con't . . .

### ASH Wednesday, March 1

- 4:00pm – String Band practice
- 5:15-6:00 – Soup Supper
- 6:00 – Worship Service
- 6:00 – Nursery during Lent

### Thursday, March 2

- 9:00am – Volunteers at Good Sam at 920 N. Union St. prepare and serve from 9:00-1:00.

### Communion Sunday, March 5

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

- 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30am Worship Services
- 9:00 – Everyday Issues
- 9:00 – Teen Church
- 10:30 – Children's Church School

### Wednesday, March 8

- 10:00am – Prayer Shawl Group
- 4:00pm – String Band practice
- 5:15-6:00 – Soup Supper
- 6:00 – Lenten Study, Pastor Bob
- 6:00 – Nursery during Lent

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent, Mar. 12

#### Daylight Savings Time

- 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30am Worship Services
- 9:00 – Everyday Issues
- 9:00 – Teen Church
- 10:30 – Children's Church School
- 11:45 – Deacons' Meeting
- 6:00pm – Just Flicks, Central Christian, *Sherpa*

### Wednesday, March 15

- 10:00am – Prayer Shawl Group
- 4:00pm – String Band practice
- 5:15-6:00 – Soup Supper
- 6:00 – Lenten Study
- 6:00 – Nursery during Lent

### Wednesday, April 5

- 6:15pm – Taizé Worship
- 5:15-6:00 - Soup

## THANK YOU



♥ The donated flowers for our services add so much to our worship experience. The beautiful arrangements remind us that someone in our church family is celebrating an event or remembering special people in their life.

You may order and donate flowers by signing up on the flower calendar in the church hallway across from the nametags.

The flowers can be taken home after the service, or Deacons can deliver them to acknowledge our shut-ins or agencies which are part of our local mission. Your generosity brightens others' lives. Thank you!

♥ Dear Members of First Presbyterian, Thank you all so much for your continued support of *By Grace* orphanage. Due to many of your donations the children all have beds with mattresses and sheets. Also due to the success of "Sponsor a Stocking" fundraiser, the children had wonderful food to eat the entire holiday season. Christmas day the children had goat with rice pilaf, vegetables, salad, and fruits. New Year's Day the children had chicken, which seems to be everyone's favorite, along with cake and soda. We spent many afternoons snapping green beans and cutting fresh vegetables. It is really kind of fun to watch 40 or 50 children snapping beans or husking corn. They sing the entire time they are working and really seem to enjoy what they are doing. There were also many treats everyday which included fresh fruits, avocados, cookies, and occasionally after their hard work with the vegetables, they would be rewarded with a soda. One afternoon we had a college graduation party for a past student who is now a *By Grace* teacher. It was wonderful to see how proud they were of Teacher Hellen and her achievement. She is a real role model to these kids. Many of the children wrote letters to some of you which I hope to be getting to you soon. The children at *By Grace* are having many of their basic needs met because of your donations and prayers. You are very special to all of them and me.

Thank you,

Pixie Fennessey

President of Stand Up For Grace

## FINGERPRINTING HISTORY

First Friends will meet at 10:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church on Thursday, February 23, 2017 and hear Mr. Ed German, a U. S Government Fingerprint Expert, currently a volunteer with the Decatur Police and the Macon County Sheriff's Department, tell of his career and answer all the questions you ever wanted to ask about this forensic science. In the January 11, 2017 H&R article, Reporter Huey Freeman quoted Mr. German , "My friends compared me to Forrest Gump, the movie character who stumbled into numerous historical adventures." Bring a friend and enjoy fellowship, a few light snacks, and a great program.

Paul Rosenberger

## Prayer Shawl Group

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays

You are invited anytime to knit, converse, and sometimes shop!

## Sherpa – March 12



### Just Flick's film

Not many of us know the name of the Sherpa who helped get Sir Edmund Hillary and others to reach the summit of Mount Everest. They were often taken advantage of by Westerners in the process. This documentary tells the story of Nepalese Sherpa guides who refuse to accept the abuses anymore.



**WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT**  
Il Forno,

1423 E. Mound  
5:30 p.m.


RSVP to 429-4195, and we'll have a chair ready for you!

**Central Christian Church  
Sanctuary Concert  
Balkan Trio  
Sunday, February 26  
4:00 p.m.**

Yona Stamatis, violin and bouzouki  
Kamen Petkov, violin  
Maryna Meshcherski, piano



## CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHOOL FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

 Each week's lessons and activities in February are inspired by the ordinary, but amazing apple and teacher Debbie Czerwinski!!!

February 5th	<b>Lesson:</b> Trees, branches, fruit	<b>Activity:</b> Apple birdfeeder
February 12th	<b>Lesson:</b> Fruit, cores, seeds	<b>Activity:</b> Core decoration
February 19th	<b>Lesson:</b> Seeds, planters, trees	<b>Activity:</b> Apple tree pot
February 26th	<b>Lesson:</b> At the core of our matter	<b>Activity:</b> Planting seeds and nurturing

## MISSION IN THE COMMUNITY

**BABES Mystery Night Fundraiser**  
**Friday, February 24, 5:00-7:00 p.m.**  
**Paco's Sol Bistro**

You will get a dinner and drink from Paco's and a ticket for a chance to win one of the Mystery Prizes. Tickets are \$30 at 302 W. Union or can be mailed or picked up that night. 428-6616. Support the BABES program.

### CULINARY COOKOFF

**Good Samaritan Inn's kitchen staff vs.  
Richland Community College's culinary arts students**  
**Saturday, March 4, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**  
**Decatur Conference Center & Hotel**

Tickets are \$30 per person, available online at [goodsamaritaninn.org](http://goodsamaritaninn.org) or call Julie at 429-1455. Dinner provided by the Decatur Conference Center. Come for food and entertainment for Good Samaritan Inn.

**Macon County Continuum of Care Community Breakfast**  
**March 9, 2017, 8:00 a.m. – Salvation Army, 229 W. Main Street**

Results from the 2017 Point in Time Count will be shared with the public. Harriet Sadowski and Pastor Jean plan on attending and invite you too.

### International Women's Day

Greater Decatur Islamic Center Presents:  
Hidden Figures: Women in Islam

Open House

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

4:00-7:00 p.m.

1635 Huston Drive, Decatur, 62526

Refreshments will be served.

