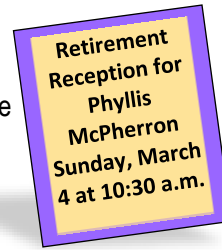




Tower Notes (USPS 634720) is published Semimonthly, by First Presbyterian Church, 204 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur, IL 62523. Periodical postage paid at Decatur, IL. Postmaster: Send address changes to Tower Notes, 204 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur IL 62523 (217)429-4195; [www.firstpresdecatur.org](http://www.firstpresdecatur.org); email: [fpdec@comcast.net](mailto:fpdec@comcast.net); or follow us on Facebook



February 28, 2018

Volume 50 Number 4

Christl Smalley, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

**T  
O  
W  
E  
R  
  
N  
O  
T  
E  
S**

from the  of Pastor Bob

Eugene Peterson's translation of Galatians 3:28 goes like this:

"In Christ's family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal."

The Kingdom of God offers a vision of radical equality. All the arbitrary ways in which we make distinctions between one another become void when viewed through the lens of Christ's love.

During this season of Lent we are encouraging everyone to read a book called, "Waking Up White" by Debby Irving. The church-wide book study comes to us as a suggestion by the co-moderators of the Presbyterian denomination, the Reverends Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston. Even if you can't read the book, please come and join in the conversations we are having on Wednesday nights after a light soup supper.

Reverends Anderson and Edmiston want the church to be a place where conversations about race and equality are welcome and encouraged. Jesus leads the way in this endeavor by having conversations with people that, in his own culture, were supposed to be avoided and kept outside the circle of faith.

This church already has a history of making connections across racial and religious barriers. Let us recommit ourselves, this Lenten season, to follow the way of Christ by living out a radical equality between all people. Let us strengthen the ways in which this is a church of open doors, open hearts and open minds.

The most difficult part of this commitment is the work we do to examine our own thoughts and ideas that might be a barrier to our relationships with others. The work we do to love one another is never complete. There's always some new insight that helps us see others more clearly and have greater understanding of their life experiences.

Spend time this season opening yourself up to the way in which God might be expanding your world.

May the Peace of Christ dwell deeply with us all,  
Bob

**Tower Notes article due dates:** Articles submission dates are the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday by noon for the edition that is mailed out the following Wednesday. Thank you!

# Calendar . . .

## Wednesday, February 28

- 8:30 – Tower Notes Folders
- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:15 – Lenten Soup Supper
- 7:00 – “Waking Up White” Lenten Book Study

## Thursday, March 1

- 9:30 – Volunteers at Good Sam
- 5:30 – Soul Friendship Class

## Sunday, March 4

- 9:45 – Christian Education
- 10:30 – Retirement/Appreciation Reception for Phyllis McPherron
- 11:00 – One Table Worship Service
- 12:15 – Deacons’ Meeting

## Monday, March 5

- 6:00 – Peacemaking Meeting
- 6:30 – Mission Meeting
- 7:00 – Worship Meeting

## Tuesday, March 6

- 5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

## Wednesday, March 7

- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:15 – Lenten Soup Supper
- 6:45 – Taizé Worship Service
- 7:00 – Lenten Book Study

## Thursday, March 8

- 9:30 – Parish Visitors Meeting
- 12:00 – Children & Youth Ministry

## Saturday, March 10

Daylight Savings Time Ends– turn your clocks ahead 1 hour tonight!

## Sunday, March 11

- 8:45 – NewSong Worship Service
- 9:45 – Christian Education
- 11:00 – Sanctuary Worship Service
- 6:00 – Just Flicks – “Spotlight”

## Monday, March 12

- 10:00 – Prayer Shawl Group
- 3:30 – Administration Meeting
- 5:00 – Adult Ministry Meeting
- 6:30 – Facilities Meeting

## Tuesday, March 13

- 1:00 – Worship Planning Meeting
- 5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

## Wednesday, March 14

- 5:00 – Evangelism & Membership
- 5:00 – Finance Meeting
- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:15 – Lenten Soup Supper
- 7:00 – Lenten Book Study

## Thursday, March 15

- 5:30 – Soul Friendship

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Marty Grohne** has moved to room 119 at Hickory Pt. Christian Village. She welcomes visitors.

**Richard Phillips**, health issues

**Barbara Redford**

**Patti Zeck**, sister of Tom Force, had mitral valve repair on Wednesday, February 21. Surgery went well.

**Naomi Davis** is now in hospice care

**David Marshall** has moved to Lincolnshire Place and is in room 207.

**Susan Hayes** – health issues

**Crystal Garcia** – sister of Donna Washburn - chronic hives since November

**SuEllen Brauer** is home now but still recovering from c-diff.

**Our sympathy** is extended to David & Debbie Rathje on the death of Debbie’s mother, Myrta Clare Pound, 86, who died Tuesday, February 6, 2018.

**Our sympathy** is extended to the family of Betty Monroe, 96, who died on Saturday, February 17, 2018.

**Our sympathy** is extended to the family of Cathy Logan, daughter of our former Pastor Jay Logan, who died on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, in Arizona.

### Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for their loving thoughts and gestures at Ronn’s passing. Ronn loved being the pastor at First Pres and he always considered this his home church and he is looking forward to seeing everyone again one day.

*Carolyn Allin and family*

**World Day of Prayer:** This Friday is World Day of Prayer. There will be a 1 p.m. service with refreshments at First United Methodist Church. Everyone is invited to attend. The service was prepared by the women of Suriname, a small country on the southeastern coast of South America and several of their stories will be shared. The theme for the day is **All God’s Creation is Very Good!** From Genesis 1:1-31. Use the north entrance under the canopy.

**Retirement/Appreciation Reception for Phyllis McPherron:** Don’t forget to stop by the church and wish Phyllis well in her retirement. Her reception is at 10:30 a.m. in the gathering room.

**“March for Our Lives”:** Dick Virgin is working on plans for a trip to take some Decatur area high school students to the "March for Our Lives" March in Washington DC on March 24 weekend. He is in need of some adults who would be interested in going and also adults who would be interested in helping pull things together for the trip even if they aren't available to go on the trip. The trip costs \$300 per person and included bus transportation, accommodations, sight-seeing on Sunday, and some meals. You may contact him at cardinalman1964@gmail.com or 860-861-3136.

**Oasis Collection Box:** The Deacons of First Presbyterian Church are initiating a new collection series for the Oasis shelter here in Decatur. We are asking members of our congregation to freely donate items required by Oasis. Items will be collected each Sunday and in turn be taken to Oasis. Each month, beginning in March, we would like to collect different items as needed by our sisters and brothers at Oasis. **Items requested in March are deodorant, cough drops, and antacid chews.** A designated box will be in the Library to collect our donations. Thank you all in advance for your participation in this endeavor.

**Adult Mission Trip in June:** First Pres is planning an Adult Mission Trip to Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center in Little Rock, Arkansas from June 3-8. Volunteers of all skill levels will work in the Disaster Assistance Center for two days, then venture out into Little Rock to work in the Jackson House Soup Kitchen, the Arkansas Rice Depot, the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, and to tour the Heifer Project Ranch that is near Little Rock. We will also visit Hot Springs National Park for a little muscle soothing and a recreational event. The cost is \$150 per volunteer but thanks to the Lenten Soup Supper free-will donations, scholarships will be available for those who may need financial help. Up to 24 beds are available, so sign up early if you are interested! Please see Pastor Jean if you have any questions! Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Room.

\*\*\*\*\*

**World Water Day:** As a follow-up to the excellent presentation about water by George Virgil at last Sunday morning's Everyday Issues class, here is an email link about World Water Day on March 22 every year that focuses attention on the importance of water:

<http://worldwaterday.org/>.

The theme for World Water Day 2018 is '[Nature for Water](#)' – exploring nature-based solutions to the water challenges we face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Paul & Verlyn Rosenberger

.....



**SMILE** – The church is gearing up for a new Pictorial Directory. Picture Days at the

church will be April 25-27 from 1-8 p.m. and April 28 from 9:30-4 p.m. Watch your mail for more details!

**Correction:** The Parish Visitors meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Adult Classroom located on the lower level.

## Lenten and Easter Schedule

**Lenten Soup Suppers:** Every Wednesday through March 21 at 6:15 p.m. in the Dining Room. Sign-up sheets will be out, or call the office if you plan to attend so we know how much soup and bread to have available. A free-will donation will be taken and any proceeds will go towards the Adult Mission Trip to Ferncliff, Arkansas in June.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to prepare soup, set-up, and/or clean-up for these meals should contact Cathy Force – 217-521-7131 or cathyforce@comcast.net.

**Lenten Book Study:** This year the Church has decided to focus its Lenten studies around “Waking Up White” by Debby Irving. The discussions will be led by Pastors Bob & Jean and continue each Wednesday through March 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Room.

**Childcare during Lent:** Childcare is available for newborn through age 12 during these Lenten Events by contacting Kathy Beube in advance at 217-620-7563.

**Palm Sunday:** On Palm Sunday, March 25, there will be children’s procession with palms at both services.

**Maundy Thursday:** A Maundy Thursday service will be held on Thursday, March 29 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel with a foot washing scenario to be included.

**Easter Sunday:** Light Easter Breakfast Sunday, April 1. Drop by the Dining Room 9:30-10:45 a.m. One Table Service 11:00 a.m. No Christian Education classes. Watch for sign-up sheets soon. Donation of muffins, rolls, coffee cakes, fruit appreciated

\*\*\*\*\*

### Just Flicks – “Spotlight”








The “**Spotlight**” shines on March 11 as our next Just Flicks presentation follows the nation’s oldest investigative journalism team. This Oscar-winning film chronicles the efforts of Boston Globe reporters to expose child sexual abuse by Catholic priests in Boston and the high-level cover-up, taking on one of the region’s most influential institutions.

This is from Wikipedia:

*It is based on a series of stories by the "Spotlight" team that earned The Globe the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. The film stars Mark Ruffalo, Michael Keaton, Rachel McAdams, John Slattery, Stanley Tucci, Brian d'Arcy James, Liev Schreiber, and Billy Crudup...Spotlight was shown in the Out of Competition section of the 72nd Venice International Film Festival. It was also shown at the Telluride Film Festival and the Special Presentations section of the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival...It won numerous guilds and critics' association awards, and was named one of the finest films of 2015 by various publications. Spotlight won the Academy Award for Best Picture along with Best Original Screenplay from six nominations in total.*

“It’s not a stretch to suggest that “Spotlight” is the finest newspaper movie of its era, joining **Citizen Kane** and **All the President’s Men** in the pantheon of classics of the genre.” (Ann Hornaday, *Washington Post*)

Fred Spannaus will lead the discussion. The show starts shortly after 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 11 at First Presbyterian Church. Refreshments will be on the table at 6:00.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>March 2018</h1>		AC – Adult Classroom BR – Bell Room C – Chapel CC – Children’s Classroom CR – Choir Room DR – Dining Room FUM – First United Meth. GR – Gathering Room	JH – Junior High Room L – Library ME – Medical Equip. Rm PO – Pastor’s Office S – Sanctuary SH – Senior High Room TR – Toddler’s Room YA – Youth Area	1 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:00a Volunteers -Good Sam  5:30p Soul Friendship – AC	2 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR <b>March, we welcome you. There is work for you to do. Work and play and blow all day. Blow the Winter wind away."</b>	3 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR  
4 <b>Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper</b> 9:45a Christian Education 10:30a Retirement Reception for Phyllis McPherron <b>11:00a One Table Worship – Sanctuary</b> 12:15p Deacon’s Mtg - DR	5 7:00a AA Meeting – DR  6:00p Peacemaking – YA 6:30p Mission – DR 7:00p Worship & Music - L	6 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L  5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	7 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 5:15p Choir Practice – CR 6:00p AA Managers Mtg. – JH 6:15p Soup Supper – DR <b>6:45p Taizé Worship-Chapel</b> 7:00p Lent Book Study - DR	8 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:30a Parish Visitors – YA 12:00p Children’s & Youth Ministry Meeting - AC  6:00p Persistent Sisters - DR	9 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR  	10 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR
11 <b>Daylight Savings Time Ends</b> <b>8:45a NewSong – Chapel</b> 9:00a Good Sam Sunday 9:45a Christian Education <b>11:00a Worship Service – S</b> 6:00p Just Flicks – “Spotlight” – Dining Room	12 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:00a Prayer Shawl – AC 11:30a Cath Chair Bd Mtg-DR 12:00p Tower Notes Articles Due 1:00p Pink Smoke – Chapel 3:30p Administration Mtg - PO 5:00p Adult Ministry Mtg.– L 6:30p Facilities Mtg.- Library	13 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:00p Worship Planning – L 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	14 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 5:00p Finance Mtg. – GR 5:00p Evang/Memb Mtg – L 5:15p Choir Practice – CR 6:15p Soup Supper – DR 7:00p Lent Book Study - DR	15 7:00a AA Meeting – DR  5:30p Soul Friendship - AC	16 7:00a AA Meeting – DR	17 <b>St. Patrick’s Day</b> 7:00a AA Meeting – DR  
18 <b>8:45a NewSong – Chapel</b> 9:45a Christian Education <b>11:00a Worship Service – S</b>	19 7:00a AA Meeting – DR  7:00p Session Meeting - DR	20 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L  4:00p Health Ministry - L 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	21 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME  5:15p Choir Practice – CR 6:15p Soup Supper – DR 7:00p Lent Book Study - DR	22 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a First Friends – FUM  5:30p Women’s Night Out – Paco’s Sol Bistro	23 7:00a AA Meeting – DR  	24 7:00a AA Meeting – DR
25 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>8:45a NewSong – Chapel</b> 9:45a Christian Education <b>11:00a Worship Service – S</b>  	26 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:00a Prayer Shawl – AC  12:00p Tower Notes Articles Due 1:00p Pink Smoke - Chapel	27 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:00p Worship Planning – L  5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	28 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME  5:15p Choir Practice – CR	29 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7:00a AA Meeting – DR   <b>7:00p Maundy Thursday Service - Chapel</b>	30 <b>Good Friday</b> 7:00a AA Meeting – DR  12:00 – Office Closed	31 7:00a AA Meeting – DR

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Ryan Crowe – 1  
Lawton Eytchison – 1  
Anna Mae Carlson – 2  
Jean Wollenberg – 3  
Glynda Hagymasy – 4  
John Weakly – 4  
Patti Weakly – 5  
Karen Yepson – 5  
Bruce Mason – 6

Mac Moore – 7  
Phyllis Mulligan – 6  
Bob Wollenberg – 7  
Lance Gauble – 8  
Shirley Moore – 9  
Sally Wachter – 9  
Chrissy Ellis – 11  
Corey Anderson – 12  
Nancy law – 12

David Marshall – 12  
Tom Griffith – 16  
Micha Hale – 16  
Ann Hostetler – 16  
Ellen Noblitt – 17  
Richard Sublett – 17  
Sue Weinstein – 18  
Sherri Arnold – 19  
Jaylyn Hale – 19

Kim Derigo – 20  
Corey Moniot – 20  
Carlos Porter – 20  
Bev Ritter – 20  
Kirk Schmidt – 20  
Gayle Bruckner – 21  
Linda Castleman – 21  
Brett Eisenhauer – 21  
Phyllis McPherron – 21

Doug Nicholson - 23  
Adam Law – 24  
Lexie Bales – 25  
Aandy Hinch – 25  
Donna Washburn – 25  
Larry Wiener - 26  
Leighton Davidson - 27  
Stu Ellis - 31  
Gib Maines - 31