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Session meets Monday, March 19 at 7 p.m.

March 14, 2018

Volume 50 Number 5

Christl Smalley, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

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Brett Eisenhauer Appointed as Young Adult Volunteer

{The following article has been adapted from a letter received from Blake A. Collins – Associate for Recruitment & Relationships in the Young Adult Volunteers program}

Our very own Brett Eisenhauer has accepted the call from the Presbyterian Mission Agency to serve as a Young Adult Volunteer on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Brett will be serving with the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program in Washington, DC during the upcoming YAV year from August 2018 – July 2019.

The Young Adult Volunteer program offers opportunities to partner in Christian service for young adults (ages 19 to 30) in sixteen locations within the United States and four sites around the world. The specific duties depend on the people involved, the talents, and the location.

The purpose of this experience is to develop community while nurturing Christian faith in self and with others. This growth is shared by means of an online blog, which is accessible by clicking the Meet Current YAVs tab to the right of the YAV homepage, youngadultvolunteers.org. A key feature of the program is the partnership of the volunteers with others and with the home church to support the volunteer.

Funding during the year of service is shared by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and work placements, as well as the home community of the YAV; this includes family, friends, congregations and presbyteries. The appointment as a Young Adult Volunteer is considered a full-time position and volunteers are not allowed to secure other employment while they are serving. Each YAV receives a stipend to cover their basic living expenses while serving during this experience.

With the approval of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, YAVs are asked raise funds to help defray the total costs. The program is deeply committed to the principal that fundraising is a means to claim God’s call in life by asking others to join in partnership and support.

While each YAV is asked to raise a portion of their costs (currently \$4,000), it is our wider church’s commitment to cover the full cost of a YAV year (approximately \$24,000). For Brett, we are being encouraged to support this experience. Beyond this year of ministry, we are also encouraged to consider future support of the YAV program to help create a sustainable model for one of the best ways our denomination invests in the faith-development of young adults.

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

Calendar . . .

Wednesday, March 14

- 4:00 – String Band Practice
- 5:00 – Evangelism & Membership
- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:15 – Lenten Soup Supper
- 7:00 – Lenten Book Study

Thursday, March 15

- 5:30 – Soul Friendship

Sunday, March 18

- 8:45 – NewSong Worship
- 9:45 – Christian Education
- 11:00 – Sanctuary Worship

Monday, March 19

- 5:00 – Finance Meeting
- 7:00 – Session Meeting

Tuesday, March 20

- 4:00 – Health Ministry Meeting
- 5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

Wednesday, March 21

- 4:00 – String Band Practice
- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:15 – Lenten Soup Supper
- 7:00 – Lenten Book Study

Thursday, March 22

- 10:30 – First Friends at FUM
- 5:30 – Women’s Night Out at Paco’s Sol Bistro

Sunday, March 25

PALM SUNDAY

- 8:45 – NewSong Worship
- 9:45 – Christian Education
- 11:00 – Sanctuary Worship

Monday, March 26

- 10:00 – Prayer Shawl Group

Tuesday, March 26

- 5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

Wednesday, March 27

- 4:00 – String Band Practice
- 5:15 – Choir Practice

Thursday, March 29

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 7:00 – Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 30

GOOD FRIDAY

- 12:00 – Office Closed

Sunday, April 1

EASTER SUNDAY

- One Great Hour of Sharing
- 9:30 – Easter Breakfast
- 11:00 – Easter One Table Service

Monday, April 2

- Office Closed
- 6:30 – Mission Meeting

PRAYER CONCERNS

Marty Grohne has moved to room 119 at Hickory Pt. Christian Village.

She welcomes visitors.

Richard Phillips, health issues

Barbara Redford

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



Eli Patrick Moore

Born March 2, 2018

12:35 pm

7 lbs. 15 oz.; 20 1/2 inches long

Parents: Kevin Moore and Kate McKearn

Big Sister: Ella

Grandparents: Mac and Susan Moore

Congratulations to the entire family!

Abigail Marie Bales

Born March 5, 2018

6 lbs; 19 inches

Born 3 weeks early

Parents: James Bales and

Jennifer Hambrecht

Siblings: Lexie, Alex, Jaye, and Alyeea

Grandparents: Theresa and Chuck Boes

Congratulations to the entire family!



New Addresses:

Rochelle Born
24 Medial Place
Decatur, IL 62521

Judy Kuypers
185 W. Imboden #211
Decatur, IL 62521

Thank You

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church, I want to sincerely thank you for the calls, cards, notes and gifts you bestowed upon me at a lovely reception given by the deacons. I felt very honored, and it was an emotional day for me listening to the kind words you expressed. I too appreciate your friendships and your hugs. I also miss all the wonderful members who have left, moved or are now deceased. I am richly blessed and forever grateful for knowing you all and enjoyed being of service to you. Many wonderful memories remain in my heart. Thank you.

Ann

(Ann Elder, 878 S. Pine Hill Dr., Decatur, IL 62521; 422-6273; amcelder@comcast.net)

“March for Our Lives”: If enough students are interested, Dick Virgin is planning a trip to take some Decatur area high school students to the "March for Our Lives" March in Washington DC on March 24 weekend. The cost is \$300 per person. If you know of a youth who would like to go, they may pick up a form in the office or contact Dick at cardinalman1964@gmail.com or 860-861-3136.

Calendar Cont. . . .

Tuesday, April 3

- 5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice
- 6:30 – Mission Trip Meeting

Wednesday, April 4

- 4:00 – String Band Practice
- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:45 – Taizé Worship Service

Thursday, April 5

- 9:00 – Volunteers at Good Sam
- 5:30 – Soul Friendship

Sunday, April 8

- 8:45 – NewSong Worship
- 9:45 – Christian Education
- 11:00 – Sanctuary Worship Service
- 6:00 – Just Flicks – *I, Daniel Blake*

Monday, April 9

- 10:00 – Prayer Shawl Group
- 3:30 – Administration Meeting
- 5:00 – Adult Ministry Meeting
- 5:00 – Finance Meeting
- 6:00 – Peacemaking Meeting
- 6:30 – Facilities Meeting
- 7:00 – Worship & Music Meeting

Tuesday, April 10

- 5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

Wednesday, April 11

- 4:00 – String Band Practice
- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:30 – Evangelism & Membership

Thursday, April 12

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

Sunday, April 15

- 8:45 – NewSong Worship
- 9:45 – Christian Education
- 11:00 – Sanctuary Worship

First Friends: This month's First Friends speaker will be Paul Fregeau, the new Superintendent of Schools for Decatur. First Friends will meet at First United Methodist Church at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 22.

Women's Night Out: The women are gathering at Paco's Sol Bistro on Thursday, March 22 at 5:30 p.m. (Original plans were for Il Forno but they have closed in preparation for re-opening of Tuscany, which we are anticipating with drooling mouths!)

Lenten and Easter Schedule

Lenten Events: The Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers at 6:15 p.m. and the Lenten Book Study at 7:00 p.m. will continue Wednesday through March 21 in the Dining Room. Please sign up for the Soup Supper by the Sunday prior!!

Palm Sunday: There will be a Children's procession with palms at both services.

Maundy Thursday: A service with a foot washing scenario will be held at 7 p.m. in the Chapel.

Easter Sunday: A light breakfast is being served beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Dining Room. All Christian Education classes will be canceled. The One Table service will be held in the Sanctuary at 11 a.m. Donations of coffee cakes, muffins, rolls, and fruit are appreciated!

Easter Flowers: Easter Flowers to be displayed on Easter Sunday are available in memory or in honor of your loved ones. Tulips have been ordered this year. You will get to choose a color from what is left when you pick up your plant. Please use the sign-up sheet and make your check for \$12 per plant to First Pres for. Please pick up your flowers after worship on Easter Sunday. Any flowers left will be donated to shut-ins or persons in the hospital.

One Great Hour of Sharing - Easter Sunday, April 1: One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Your gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter Sunday will benefit three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Thank you for your support of this life-changing offering.

To see an interactive map of OGHS recipients around the world and learn more about the programs that your gift supports, go to <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs>.

Parish Nurse Position: The Administration Committee is extending our search for our next Parish Nurse to the community. If you know of someone who might be a great Parish Nurse for our congregation, please encourage them to apply. Ask them to contact the church office, and we'll send them a Position Description and an application form.

Oasis Day Center Collection Box: A larger collection box is being placed in the Library for the Oasis Day Center. Items collected will be delivered to Oasis weekly. The items requested for March are **deodorant, cough drops, and antacid chews**. The Deacons thank you in advance for your contributions.

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. 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. Please see Pastor Jean if you have any questions! Sign-up in the Gathering Room.

Collection Note: Campbells is no longer redeeming their soup labels. Please only place Box Tops for Education in the collection basket.

Birthday Correction: Phyllis Mulligan's b-day is 3-16, not 3-7 as printed in the March calendar.



Retirement/ Appreciation Reception:

A packed room of grateful church members gathered on Sunday, March 4 to thank Phyllis McPherron for her nine years of

service as our Parish Nurse. Phyllis received oral tributes as well as a basket filled with cards and gifts. Before and after the ceremony, many members approached Phyllis individually to thank her for her advice, and for supporting them through health crises.

Thank you to the generous hearts of First Presbyterian Church!!



The Souper Bowl and Culver's Outreach fundraisers were held in February to benefit Northeast Center's new building. The children and youth learned what is involved in helping others while shining God's light in our community. The total raised for Northeast is \$1,000. The pastors and ministry team shared your gift with the director, Jerry Pelz. We were given a tour of the present operation and learned the plans for the new location.



Directory Pictures:

You may click the link on our website (firstpresdecatur.org) to schedule a date and

time for your pictures, or beginning Sunday, March 18, Jackie Evans will be in the Gathering Room at 10:30 and after the 11:00 service to help you choose a date and time. Picture Days at the church will be April 25-27 from 1-8 p.m. and April 28 from 9:30-4 p.m.



from the  of Pastor Jean

Wilderness Wanderings

We are about ½ way through the season of Lent which is the time when we imitate Jesus' forty days of wandering in the desert before we arrive at the doorstep of Easter. Reading Debbie Irving's book certainly has me feeling like I am wandering in a wilderness of uncharted thoughts and ideas as we read about racism and white privilege.

One of my favorite lines of the book is "I don't know, what I don't know." And certainly, I've woken up to a number of new experiences which I didn't know that I didn't know. Wandering in this wilderness can also be, for me, a bit disconcerting as I see how I have perpetuated systemic and individual racist acts throughout my life. I wander this new land with wonder and vulnerability, opening myself up to new ways of being and doing and relating. But as I wander this wilderness, it's comforting to know that Jesus also walked in the wilderness and knows what it is to take a difficult and perplexing path.

When Jesus left the wilderness, he was baptized and began his ministry of teaching and healing. When we come to the end of our time in the wilderness hopefully we will also be better equipped to do the work of ministry and mission that God has called us to do.

The Protestant Reformation Continued, Part III: Where Do We Go From Here?

Revs. Bill Keagle and Miley Palmer will co-teach this class which will be offered Sunday mornings at 9:45 and Tuesday afternoons at First Pres and on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 at First United Methodist Church. The classes will continue for 7 weeks from April 8 through May 23.

This class will focus on POSITIVE developments taking place to overcome the corruptions of Christianity we see all around us, and dealing with the real issues and real questions people have today: What can I believe and what should I be doing with my life (Faith in Action). This will include our conceptions of God and Jesus in the light of science and our knowledge of the Universe(s) and current biblical scholarship.

Thank You

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the wonderful retirement reception you gave me on March 4th. It made me think about how special you all are to me and all the memories I will have with me forever. It has truly been an honor to serve as your parish nurse.

I thank the Health Ministry committee for the clever "nurse" display on the white board. I have shared pictures of it with my family and friends. The cake was especially delicious even if Fred got his jacket into the frosting! I appreciate everyone who helped with the reception. Thank you so much! And a final thank you for the incredible gift of money I was given. Your generosity is amazing!! I am saving it to use in some special way. First Presbyterian Church has a strong commitment to the healing ministry and I am so glad I was able to be part of it for over 9 years.

In appreciation, Phyllis