



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

May 30, 2018

Volume 50 Number 10

Christl Smalley, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

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*Congratulations, Graduates!*



**Olivia Bachtold**, daughter of Brad Bachtold, graduated from Heartland Community College with an Associate in Art degree and then on to ISU, majoring in Geography and German.

**Benjamin Bemis**, grandson of Ruth Warfield, graduated with a bachelor's degree in computer technology from Purdue University. His degree will take him to Chicago, IL.

**Brett Eisenhauer**, daughter of Beth Bachtold, graduated from Murray State University with her bachelor's degree in nonprofit leadership; minoring in organizational communication. She plans to work at Poco a Poco in Streator this summer and will represent the Presbytery of SE Illinois as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate at General Assembly in St. Louis. In August, Brett will move to Washington D.C. to serve as a YAV, through the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

**Johnathon Franklin**, son of Marsha DeVore, graduated with a bachelor's degree in interactive storytelling for game design from Southern New Hampshire University. He plans to work in software design.

**Dalton Guadagno**, grandson of Kathy and Mike Beube, is graduating from Rochester High School and plans to attend Lincoln Land Community College.

**Brandon Mandernach**, son of Craig and Jan Mandernach, graduated from Millikin University with a Bachelor of Science in nursing. He is a firefighter and will work as needed as an RN for a hospital on his days off.

**Reed Marshall**, grandson of Susie Marshall and the late David Marshall, is graduating from Richmond Burton High School. Reed will be attending the University of Illinois.

**Kyle Mason**, son of Bruce and Kay Mason, is graduating from Southern Illinois University with a degree in dental medicine. He plans to join the family practice of Mason and Mason Dental Care in Mt. Pulaski.

**Jordan Warden-Michl**, daughter of David and Linda Warden-Michl, graduated with an Associate in Science degree from Illinois Central College.

**Carmyn Streich**, daughter of Miriam McKinney-Winder, is graduating from high school and plans to attend a junior college in the fall.

**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, May 30

4:00 – String Band Practice

## Sunday, June 3

8:00 – Mission Group leaves for Ferncliff, Arkansas

9:45 – Adult Education Class

11:00 – One Table Worship Service

12:15 – Deacons' Meeting

## Monday, June 4

6:00 – Peacemaking Meeting

6:30 – Mission Meeting

7:00 – Worship & Music Meeting

## Tuesday, June 5

10:30 – Staff Meeting

1:00 – Worship Planning Meeting

## Wednesday, June 6

4:00 – String Band Practice

## Thursday, June 7

9:00 – Volunteers at Good Sam

## Friday, June 8

PM – Mission Group returns from Ferncliff, Arkansas

## Sunday, June 10

8:45 – NewSong Worship

9:45 – Adult Education Class

11:00 – Sanctuary Worship

## Monday, June 11

12:00 – Tower Notes articles due

5:00 – Adult Ministry Meeting

6:30 – Facilities Meeting

## Tuesday, June 12

10:30 – Staff Meeting

## Wednesday, June 13

8:30 – Tower Notes Folders

4:00 – String Band Practice

## Thursday, June 14

9:00 – Parish Visitors

12:00 – Children & Youth Ministry Meeting

## Sunday, June 17

8:45 – NewSong Worship

9:45 – Adult Education Class

11:00 – Sanctuary Worship

## Monday, June 18

1:30 – Women's Bible Study Mtg.

## Tuesday, June 19

1:00 – Worship Planning

## Wednesday, June 20

2:00 – 1<sup>st</sup> Pres String Band playing at Eagle Ridge

## Sunday, June 24

8:45 – NewSong Worship

9:00 – Good Sam Sunday

9:45 – Adult Education Class

11:00 – Sanctuary Worship

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

**Hospital:** Brenda Aymer's father Larry Boyer, Earl Carpunky

**Rehab:** Marty Grohne

**Health Issues:** Naomi Davis, Susan Hayes, Lori Shimizu's cousin Brian MacKay, Peggy Madden's husband Richard Phillips, in-laws of the Ward's son Matthew; Lisa Carpenter and Katy Boeson, Carolyn Allin's friend Pastor Jim Neumann

**On-going Care:** Oaster's friend Lucas Farmer, Chris Foster's brother Bill Wolfe

**Elder Care Facilities:** Louise Bear, Julia Bright, Linda May's mother Nellie Brookhouzen, Pauline Carter, Bill Grieve, Gib & Gini Maines, Judy Steele's mother Jean Peak, Norma Stephens

**Death:** Former member Donald Franklin Shimon, 94, died on May 12, 2018 in Hendersonville, NC.

**Thank you!** My hip replacement went smoothly in part due to prayers, cards, sweet treats, and visits by my church friends including our pastors. Too, thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl that surrounds me with warmth and love. It is a blessing, joy and privilege to be a member of this community of faith!

Peace and Love,  
Jean Aberle

**70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Open House:** Long-time members Edward and Barbara Paine will be celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (June 11) with an open house and square dance on June 9 from 1-4 p.m. at the Blue Mound Civic Center. Square dancing will be from 2-3:30. Cards of congratulations may be sent to the Paines at 56 Berry Drive, Decatur, IL 62526.

**NAACP "Game Changers in Decatur" Awards:** Our own [Kathy Beube](#) is a Game Changer in Decatur! She will be one of the recipients of this year's NAACP "Game Changers in Decatur." The award will be presented at the NAACP's 78th Annual Freedom Fund Awards Celebration at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 3, at the Decatur Conference Center. Tickets to the event are \$10 and will not be sold at the door. Call Mildred Bond (877-2439) or Janelle Norman (521-0857) to purchase tickets. Congratulations, Kathy!

**Meals on Wheels:** Volunteers are needed for 28 routes to deliver Meals on Wheels the week of June 11-15. Please contact Susie Marshall (422-0824) by June 2 if you are available. After June 2 you may call the church office.

**Church T-Shirts:** The First Pres T-shirts are in and sorted. You may pick up your shirt(s) in the office during the week, or in the Gathering Room on Sunday. Don't forget to wear your First Pres t-shirt when you volunteer!

**Directory Photos:** Everyone should have gotten the portraits they ordered by now. If you have not received yours, please call the office. The office does have a few of the free 8x10 photos waiting to be picked up. Soon the data for the new directory will be proofed and finalized and we expect to be able to distribute them in July.

Evangelism & Membership

### Adult Education Classes:

For the remainder of the summer, both adult education classes will meet together in the Dining Room at the normal time of 9:45 a.m.

Starting last Sunday Bob began a short series of classes on Presbyterian Minister and visionary children's television host, Fred Rogers, using the story of his life and his television work as a way of exploring concepts of neighborliness and radical love in our society.

### Good Samaritan Volunteers needed for Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>:

Extra volunteers are needed on Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, our day to serve at the Good Samaritan Inn. Many of our normal volunteers will be on the Mission Trip to Little Rock Arkansas. For things to run smoothly and efficiently we need about 4 "Preparers" to help in the kitchen from 9 – 11 a.m., and then beginning at 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. about 11 "Servers" to dish out the prepared meal, hand out beverages, and work on the floor carrying trays and helping to wipe down the tables. If you are available to help please contact Ruth Sublett to let her know that you are willing to serve ([rasublett@comcast.net](mailto:rasublett@comcast.net)). Thank you – your help is greatly appreciated.

**Sweet Treats for Good Sam:** Our volunteers will prepare and serve the meal at Good Samaritan Inn on SUNDAY, June 24. 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 or kitchen freezer by **NO LATER THAN MONDAY, JUNE 18.** Your help is always appreciated.

from the  of Pastor Jean



### Little Rock, Arkansas – here we come!!

On Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 20 of us will head to Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock, Arkansas to do Mission Work. We range in age from 11 years old to over 75!!

Ferncliff is a camp and conference center that focuses on hospitality, sustainability and outreach. We were interested in Ferncliff because of its connection to CWS (Church World Service) and PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) programs. Ferncliff is unique in having its own 10,000 square foot Disaster Assistance Center commonly referred to as "the DAC". The DAC has a covenant relationship with both CWS and PDA and is a warehouse designated to receive CWS Gift-Of-the-Heart kits from churches around the country. There are three different types of kits that are assembled and packaged in the DAC.

1. Hygiene Kits: These kits are used in refugee camps as way to hold off sickness and promote better health for struggling families.
2. School kits: School kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning.
3. Buckets: Clean Buckets provide assistance to families and communities affected by flooding, tornados and other disasters.

We will spend a day compiling and then making these kits ready to be dispensed when needed either here in the United States or in Countries abroad. I believe that some of those kits made their way here to Illinois and the people of Washington after the tornado damaged and destroyed many homes in that community a few years back.

Other mission activities will include, mending and working around the camp itself, a day at the Little Rock Arkansas Food Bank, preparing lunches at Jackson House and working in the Habitat Restore. Some of the fun things that we hope to do is take a tour of the Heifer International Farm and visit Hot Springs National Park.

In Matthew 25:37 we read: *"The righteous will answer him 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison'...and Jesus answered them 'truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me'."* May we find Christ in all those whom we serve and work with while in Arkansas.

Members of the Mission Team: Brenda Aymer, Beth & Brad Bachtold, Cathy Force, Amy Hillmer, Kathy, Lyndsey, Ruthie & Ryan Holler, Terry Hogg, Lori & Norm Jensen, Judy Kuypers, Susie Marshall, Doug & Margi Nicholson, Chelsea Schneringer, Trish Spinner, Richard Sublett and Pastor Jean.



**Dear Friends of By Grace and Stand Up For Grace,**

As I am getting ready to leave for my 27th trip to Kenya and By Grace, I just wanted to thank all of you for your continued support. In the last thirteen years I have seen many positive changes at By Grace - the children now eat three meals a day, clean water is brought to By Grace twice a week, the children now have beds to sleep in, there is several rooms rented across the street for the primary classes and these are just a few. These wonderful things could not have happened without your support. Thanks again.

I will be in Kenya till August 8th. I am looking forward to my time with the children. While I am in Kenya the board of directors and advisory board will still be working hard to raise funds and keep things moving on here in the US. If you send donations through the mail or through Pay Pal rest assured they will be looked after and deposited into our account. Any questions you may have while I'm gone may be directed to Mary Ann Moore at [maryannburlington@gmail.com](mailto:maryannburlington@gmail.com). She is the secretary at SUFG and knows how to reach me.

Donations drop off in the summer, so SUFG appreciates anything you do to help keep funds coming in. In the past some supporters have had rummage sales, others have had fashion shows, and some have just told others about By Grace. If there is anything that you can do to keep the funds coming in this summer it is very much appreciated!

Have a great summer!

Pixie Fennessey,  
President of Stand Up For Grace

**Service To Mankind Awards Breakfast**

The Decatur Breakfast Sertoma Club has selected two outstanding volunteers, David and Harriet Sadowski, to receive the prestigious Service To Mankind Award on Friday, June 15, 2018, in recognition of their dedicated volunteerism in the Decatur community, Illinois, and several other states that have experienced weather-related and other disasters.

David has been a lifetime member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Harriet has been a 52-year active member of First Presbyterian Church both in Decatur. Both David and Harriet have been Red Cross volunteers for 22 years, primarily as responders to local and national disasters including floods, hurricanes and tornados. Harriet was part of the disaster team that responded after the 9/11 bombings. In 1955 David helped organize and since then has actively participated in the South Wheatland Township Volunteer Fire Protection District where he is the only charter member. He has been president of its trustees for the past 33 years.

At First Presbyterian Church, Harriet has participated on several committees, including the Parish Nurse Committee. She has also been elected a deacon and an elder, and has also volunteered at DOVE. For the past four years she has also volunteered at the Decatur and Macon County Senior Center as the co-chair of their Thrift Shop and as a member of its Board of Directors.

David's lengthy leadership service at SWTFPD has been honored by numerous state officials, including a governor. In 1998, 2007 & 2008 Harriet was presented the annual ARC Emergency Services Award; in 2001 she was named the ARC Volunteer of the Year.

The award ceremony for the couple will follow a buffet breakfast at the Salvation Army at 229 West Main Street, Decatur, Illinois, starting at 7:00 a.m. Open to the public, please make \$12 breakfast reservations, payable at the door, by calling 217-877-4789 by noon on June 11.

**Volunteers Needed for Old King's Orchard Community Center Safety Program:**

OKOCC is looking for volunteers for their upcoming summer safety program. The four-week summer safety program is for youth in grades K-6<sup>th</sup> grade and will be from 11-3 p.m. Tuesday – Thursday each week beginning June 5 and ending June 28. The focus this year is on literacy and safety. The children will be participating in the DPL Summer Reading Program, and learning about bicycle safety, fire safety, water safety, gun/drug safety, train safety, etc.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Reading to and with the children;
- Distribution of lunches, which requires training by the Park District
- Help with transportation for field trips (Transportation of the children in the OKO van requires a J license, but you can use your personal vehicle to transport the staff.)
- Prepare materials for the activities
- Interact with children/teacher helper.

To volunteer please contact Megan Meyrick ([megyn80@hotmail.com](mailto:megyn80@hotmail.com) or 217-454-7591), Alida Graham ([alidagramham@gmail.com](mailto:alidagramham@gmail.com) or 217-622-4652), or Old King's Orchard at 428-2782.



**Empty Serving Dishes:** All empty dishes/platters from recent church events have been put on the counter in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Kitchen.

**Oasis Day Center Collection Box:** Items requested for **June** are ramen noodles and laundry detergent. Please place these items in the large Oasis collection box. The Deacons and Oasis Day Center thank you!

**First Sunday:** As we do on the first Sunday of every month, First Presbyterian Church celebrates **the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**. All who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ are welcomed and encouraged to partake of this holy meal.

When we celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of the month, the congregation is also invited to bring non-perishable foods to the worship area. These food offerings are given to the **Northeast Community Fund**.

**Presbyterian Coffee Project:** The Peacemaking Committee sells **Equal Exchange coffee, olive oil and herb packets** in the Gathering Room on the first Sunday of the month. Through our fundraising efforts, farmers earn a fair price for their products, have access to affordable credit, and gain a long-term trading partner they can trust, a fair-trade organization called Equal Exchange.

**No Used Cell Phones:** DOVE is no longer accepting used cell phones. The cell phone basket has been removed from the collections area in the Library.

## **Stopping Traffic: The Movement to End Sex Trafficking Decatur Public Library**

Thursday, Jun. 21, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Please join us for a screening of the film, "Stopping Traffic: The Movement to End Sex Trafficking"

The film is a call to action, intending to inspire the viewer to join in the movement to seek an end to human trafficking, helping to break the isolation of millions of voiceless victims.

The Website: <http://stoppingtrafficfilm.com/>

The Trailer: <https://youtu.be/xxhVIXAiDU4>

Take Action: Set Free of Macon County is collecting items for care packages for survivors. Donations will be accepted at the screening. Items needed: small clear makeup zipper bags, journals, stuffed animals, gift cards (\$5/\$10 to Walmart, McDonald's, etc.).

After the film, there will be a panel discussion featuring members of the Set Free Movement of Macon County for Q&A.

Presented by Set Free (SetFreeMC@gmail.com) and Decatur Public Library.



April 2018 Blessing of the Prayer Shawls












May 6, 2018 Banner Display and new projectors.



The children at Pentecost, 2018



| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| <h1>June<br/>2018</h1>   |    | AC – Adult Classroom<br>BR – Bell Room<br>C – Chapel<br>CC – Children’s Classroom<br>CR – Choir Room<br>DR – Dining Room<br>FUM – First United Meth.<br>GR – Gathering Room | JH – Junior High Room<br>L – Library<br>ME – Medical Equip. Rm<br>PO – Pastor’s Office<br>S – Sanctuary<br>SH – Senior High Room<br>TR – Toddler’s Room<br>YA – Youth Area |    | 1<br>7:00a AA Mtg. – DR  | 2<br>7:00a AA Mtg. – DR<br>    |
| 3<br><b>Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper</b><br>8:00a Mission Group leaves for Ferncliff, Arkansas<br>9:45a Adult Christian Ed - DR<br><b>11:00a One Table Worship – Sanctuary</b><br>12:15p Deacons Mtg. – YA | 4<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br>6:30p Mission Meeting - DR<br>7:00p Worship & Music – GR<br>   | 5<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br>10:30a Staff Meeting – L<br>1:00p Worship Planning – L<br>   | 6<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br>4:00p String Band - DR<br>6:00p AA Managers Mtg. – JH<br> | 7<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br>9:00a Volunteers -Good Sam<br> | 8<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br>PM Mission Group returns from Ferncliff, Arkansas<br> | 9<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br> |
| 10<br><b>8:45a NewSong – Chapel</b><br>9:45a Adult Christian Ed - DR<br><b>11:00a Worship Service – S</b>  | 11<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br>11:30a Catholic Charities-YA<br>12:00p Tower Notes Articles Due<br>1:00p Pink Smoke – Chapel<br>5:00p Adult Ministry Mtg.– L<br>6:00p Peacemaking – YA<br>6:30p Facilities Mtg.- Library | 12<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br>10:30a Staff Meeting – L   | 13<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br>8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L<br>4:00p String Band - DR   | 14<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br>9:30a Parish Visitors – YA<br>12:00p Children & Youth Ministry Meeting - AC<br>6:00p Persistent Sisters-DR       | 15<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR  | 16<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR   |
| 17<br><b>8:45a NewSong – Chapel</b><br>9:45a Adult Christian Ed - DR<br><b>11:00a Worship Service – S</b>  | 18<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br>1:30p Women’s Bible Study-AC   | 19<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br>1:00p Worship Planning – L   | 20<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br>2:00p 1 <sup>st</sup> Pres String Band @ Eagle Ridge  | 21<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR   | 22<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR  | 23<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR   |
| 24<br><b>8:45a NewSong – Chapel</b><br>9:00a Good Sam Sunday<br>9:45a Adult Christian Ed - DR<br><b>11:00a Worship Service – S</b>   | 25<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br>12:00p Tower Notes Articles Due<br>1:00p Pink Smoke – Chapel   | 26<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br>10:30a Staff Meeting – L   | 27<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br>8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L<br>4:00p String Band – DR   | 28<br>7:00a AA Meeting – DR<br>10:30a First Friends – GR<br>5:30p Women’s Night Out – Beach House   | 29   | 30  |

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS



Carol Dixon – 2  
Steve Campbell – 4  
Denise Porter – 4  
Carmyn Streich – 4  
Ethan Frech – 5  
Verlyn Rosenberger – 5  
Claire Taylor – 5  
Nadine Wimmer – 5

Tom Force – 6  
Carolyn Meyer – 6  
Noah Gillespie – 7  
Lindsey Holler – 8  
Linda Wiesner – 10  
Wyatt Taylor – 11  
Tom Black – 12  
Carol Houston – 12

Jim Olson – 13  
Cindy Wene – 13  
Patricia Thom – 14  
Cindy Wakeland – 15  
George Batson – 19  
Sophia Guadagno – 19  
Ryleigh Ellis – 20  
George Mulligan – 20

Judy Steele – 21  
Sydney Davis – 23  
Azure Nicole – 25  
Kathi Bondurant – 26  
Matthew Davidson – 27  
Ron Wisher – 28  
**Did we forget someone?  
Please let us know!**