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July 11, 2018

Volume 50 Number 13

Christl Smalley, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

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from the  of Pastor Jean

Watershed Discipleship

Hello friends, it is good to be back here in Decatur after our three-week adventure in New Mexico. Our first two weeks we spent exploring the cities, mountains, mesas and National Parks in that far off and distant land, so very different from any place yet that I have been to here in the USA. While there, we only had two partial days of rain – the rest was sun, sun, sun and then more sun with temperatures well into the nineties with a few days going over 100 degrees. Our third week there was spent at Ghost Ranch, a Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center – where we participated in a week-long conference on Climate Change and Biology (Bob), and Watershed Discipleship (Jean). One of the most crucial factors discussed in this conference was the availability and access to water, not only in New Mexico -- a very arid and dry place -- but also the place in which each of us inhabit.

The first two questions asked in my Watershed Discipleship class were:

- When you turn on a water faucet – do you know where your water comes from?
- When you flush your toilet – do you know where your waste goes?

I must admit that I had not been very good at making myself really think about where our water comes from here in Decatur, or where it goes when we are done with it. I knew that it was city water of course – but I never really stopped and considered where the city pulls its water supply from. I tried to find a map of our Watershed District (Watershed being the area and source from which we draw our main water supply) but had a very difficult time finding anything on line for Central Illinois. After talking with some of our more knowledgeable congregation members this past Sunday, I did discover that our water source is the Sangamon River. Because things are so green and lush here – it is very easy for us to not pay attention to our water supply and our water usage. For us, the water just flows out of our faucets and water taps and we use it liberally and without much care. This however is not the case in many places in our country and around the world. Water is carefully metered and monitored to make sure that all have access to clean life-giving water. I know that I will now be much more diligent and mindful of my water usage from our Decatur Watershed.

In the Bible we find water as the central theme in both the very first story of Creation in Genesis, and in the very last story in John’s book of Revelation. God created the world with water which brings forth life, and in Revelation when all things are restored, it is through the River of Life. John writes in Revelation 22:1-2: *1Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of all nations. May God’s River of Life restore each of us to wholeness and well-being and remind us that indeed we are stewards of such a precious resource to our world.*

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, July 11

- 8:30 – Tower Notes Folders
- 4:00 – String Band Practice
- 5:00 – Evangelism & Membership

Thursday, July 12

- 9:30 – Parish Visitors

Sunday, July 15

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

Monday, July 16

- 8:30 – Vac. Bible School @ FUM
- 1:30 – Women's Bible Study
- 3:30 – Administration Meeting
- 5:00 – Finance Meeting

Tuesday, July 17

- 8:30 – Vac. Bible School @ FUM
- 4:00 – Health Ministry Meeting

Wednesday, July 18

- 8:30 – Vac. Bible School @ FUM
- 1:00 – Watercolor Workshop
- 2:00 – 1st Pres String Band
at Eagle Ridge

Thursday, July 19

- 8:30 – Vac. Bible School @ FUM

Friday, July 20

- 8:30 – Vac. Bible School @ FUM

Sunday, July 22

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

Monday, July 23

- 12:00 – Tower Notes articles due
- 7:00 – Session Meeting

Wednesday, July 25

- 8:30 – Tower Notes Folders
- 4:00 – String Band Practice

Thursday, July 26

- 10:30 – First Friends @ FUM
- 5:30 – Women's Night Out @ Aloha

Sunday, July 29

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

Monday, July 30

- 6:00 – Peacemaking Meeting

Adult Education Classes: For the remainder of the summer, both adult education classes join and will meet in the Dining Room at of 9:45 a.m. to discuss the weeks Wired Word topic.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Rehab: Marty Grohne, Pixie Fennessey

Health Issues: 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 Boreson, Naomi Davis, Christl's friend Debbie, Dick Ward's brother John Ward, Dwain VanZant, Paul Rosenberger's brother Clark Rosenberger

On-going Care: Oaster's friend Lucas Farmer, Chris Foster's brother Bill Wolfe, Brenda Aymer's father Larry Boyer,

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, Verlyn Rosenberger's brother Elvon Fulton, Doris Fiala

General: All of our loved ones who may be going through difficult times in their lives

Thank You!

To my church family:

You have touched my heart with all your loving concerns, prayers, cards, visits, food, and the beautiful prayer shawl during and after my recent stay in the hospital. All is very much appreciated! Sending you a big bundle of THANKS and LOVE!



Yvonne Lewis

Quarters for Elmwood: A big THANK YOU to everyone who continues to donate their quarters to the residents of Elmwood for their laundry needs. This week the Peacemaking Committee donated another \$122.50 to the Elmwood residents. Approximately \$600 has been donated since the collection began.

Congratulations: Congratulations to Luke and Emily Zinda on the birth of their daughter **Eleanor Elisabeth Zinda** who was born on July 1 weighing 8 lbs. 8 oz. and is 19.5" long. The Zinda family has moved to Ohio and are missing the First Pres community. Their new address is 5730 Great Northern Blvd., Apt. E1, North Olinsted, OH 44070



Pixie Fennessey Update: Pixie is ready to be released from the hospital in Kenya and enough funds have been raised to pay her medical bills. As soon as the money is available in her account she will be able to go to her apartment. Hopefully she will be able to relax at the apartment and continue to heal.

Oasis Day Center Collection Box: There is currently an urgent need for wash cloths and towels at the day center. Other items always needed are men's & women's underwear in various sizes, and adult socks.

Summer Watercolor Workshop

Jeanne Helm and Cathy Meadows will be displaying watercolor paintings and will share tips on the skill of watercolor painting on **Wednesday, July 18 at 1pm in the Dining Room** at First Presbyterian Church. Please join them for an hour of creativity. You will get a chance to try mixing colors and get a feel for the technique.

The church will provide paper plates, paper cups, paper towels, and pitchers of water. Jeanne will provide the paper, paint, and brushes. **Sign up in the Gathering Room by July 15th or call the church office. (429-4195).**



Decatur Celebration Parking Passes: \$20 Weekend Parking Passes for the Decatur Celebration are now available. You may pick one up on Sundays in the Gathering Room, or in the Office during office hours of 8:30-12:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 1:30-5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday & Friday. **Proceeds from this year's celebration parking will go to Stand Up For Grace to help provide basic necessities and educational and medical supplies for the By Grace Disabled & Orphan Center in Nairobi, Kenya.** Please share this information with your friends and family.

First
Presbyterian
Church
2018
Decatur
Celebration
\$20
Weekend
Parking
Pass

Parking Lot Attendants for Decatur Celebration: Please consider volunteering to take money at the entrance of the parking lot for a 2-hour shift during the Decatur Celebration (August 3, 4, & 5). The sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Room.

Presbyterian's Today Renewals!

The time is fast approaching to renew your subscriptions to *Presbyterians Today* magazine. Due to our group ordering numbers you may **SUBSCRIBE, or RENEW** your subscription for only **\$9.95 a year**, which is a 50% discount from the normal subscription price. A sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Room. Make checks payable to First Pres. The order will be placed at the end of August.



If you have never read *Presbyterians Today*, there are several back copies on the coffee table in the Library. Since the order won't be placed until the end of August, feel free to take one home and read through it to see if you find it interesting and helpful. Several of our members already subscribe and below is a testimonial from Rick Koetje.

"Having access to news from our denomination gives me the inside scoop for the broad base that forms the body of Christ known as Presbyterians. I can enjoy and be inspired by articles on issues and events. I'm also motivated and challenged to think of new ways to worship and serve in daily life based on what I'm reading in this magazine."

First Friends: First Friends is a social group that meets every 4th Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and is open to members and non-members alike. Each month there is a speaker with a discussion afterwards. **On July 26, First Friends will meet at First United Methodist Church (FUM).** Refreshments will be served and free will donations are accepted.

Women's Night Out: Women's Night Out (WNO) is a friendly group of women who enjoy getting together once a month for a meal and conversation. Everyone is welcome. **Join WNO this month on July 26 at 5:30 p.m. at Aloha for delicious Hawaiian-Chinese cuisine.**