



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

**July 25, 2018****Volume 50 Number 14****Christl Smalley, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor****T  
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From the  of Pastor Bob

July 2018

Jean and I are so grateful for the chance we have every year to get away. In fact, over the years, we've discovered that getting away is an essential part of our ability to stay in one place. Or putting it another way, taking time off enriches our ability to be "on." Whether or not you have the time or resources to head off on some sort of vacation, scripture clearly instructs us about the wisdom of periodic breaks in our busy-ness.

The Biblical word is Sabbath which simply translates to something like, "ceasing." To honor the Sabbath, as the commandment puts it, is to cease or stop what it is that we are doing. The purpose behind the Sabbath isn't in order to rest up for the next flurry of activities but to intentionally disconnect from our need to be productive and useful. Sabbath is intended to remind us of our dependence on God rather than our own skills and talents. Stepping away from our own busy-ness re-tunes our Spirit to the movement of God's grace.

I'm sure that I'm not the only one who feels a little twinge of guilt every time I sit on my porch doing nothing. I hear that small voice in my head that tells me I should be DOING something ... I should be more productive. But we need to be regularly reminded that from God's point of view, our value is not derived from our productivity, an idea that is reinforced in Jesus' parable of the workers in the vineyard in which those who only worked for one hour are valued by the landowner equally with the ones who worked all day long. A regular practice of keeping the Sabbath reminds us of the equal worth every human being has no matter how productive they are.

Next time you're busy filling out your calendar with things to do, make sure you schedule some time to stop and experience the love God has for you just because of who you are. Consider making the Sabbath a regular part of your calendar alongside all the busy appointments of your life.

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, July 25

- 8:30 – Tower Notes Folders
- 1:00 – Watercolor Workshop #2

## 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

## Wednesday, August 1

- 4:00 – String Band Practice

## Thursday, August 2

- 9:00 – Volunteers at Good Sam
- 2:00 – 1<sup>st</sup> Pres String Band at Primrose

## Friday, August 3

- 5:00 – Celebration Parking

## Saturday, August 4

- 8:00 – Celebration Parking

## Sunday, August 5

- 9:45 – Adult Christian Education
- 11:00 – One Table Worship Service
- 12:15 – Deacons’ Meeting – YA
- 12:30 – Celebration Parking

## Monday, August 6

- 5:30 – Worship & Music Meeting
- 6:30 – Mission Meeting

## Tuesday, August 7

- 5:00 – Finance Meeting

## Wednesday, August 8

- 4:00 – String Band Practice
- 5:00 – Evangelism & Membership

## Thursday, August 9

- 9:30 – Parish Visitors Meeting
- 3:00 – Administration Meeting
- TBD – Children & Youth Meeting

## Sunday, August 12

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

## Monday, August 13

- 5:00 – Adult Ministry Meeting
- 6:30 – Facilities Meeting

## Wednesday, August 15

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

## Sunday, August 19

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

**SAVE THE DATE!**

- ✓ 5:00 – Church Picnic at Fairview Park, East side of Pavilion 1

Watch for more info!

## 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’s brother Clark Rosenberger, Walt’s brother Larry Lohmann, Alice Nicholson’s sister Esther

**On-going Care:** 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.

**Condolences:** Oasters at the death of their friend Lucas Farmer on Friday, July 13, 2018.

**New Church Directories:** The new 2018 Church Pictorial Directories are here. If you sat for a picture, or submitted a picture, your FREE directory is available in the Gathering Room on Sunday. Otherwise, the new directories are \$5 each. You may also pick them up in the Office during normal working hours.

## Directory Additions and Corrections

Olson, Jim  
1455 W. Mound Rd. #203  
Decatur, IL 62526

Zinda, Luke & Emily  
5730 Great Northern Blvd., Apt. E1  
North Olmsted, OH 44070

**Oasis Day Center Collection Box:** Oasis is currently in need of deodorant, denture cleaner, and denture adhesive. Underwear, socks, razors, and shave cream for both men and women are also items that are always needed. The donation bin is in the Library Donation Center. The Deacons and Oasis thank you for your donations.

**Decatur Celebration Parking Passes:** Don’t forget to pick up your \$20 Weekend Parking Pass for the Decatur Celebration. Your donation will help provide necessities and educational and medical supplies for the By Grace Disabled & Orphan Center in Nairobi, Kenya.



**Volunteers needed.** If you can help, please notify Christl in the church office (429-4195).

**Tower Notes** – Bi-monthly volunteers put address labels and sort Tower Notes for mailing. This job takes about an hour twice a month. Volunteers help for a month, two or three times a year.

**Gardening** – Barbara Keagle has overseen the gardening volunteers for several years. Our church grounds have looked great because of these volunteers. The overseer of this involves **coordinating** pruning, planting, and watering of the pots. The group reviews the landscaping and recommends changes and updates to facilities.

# Adult Mission Trip

June 3-8, 2018



Well we made it to Arkansas and back, doing mission work in a variety of locations in Little Rock and Hot Springs Arkansas. Many of you heard the Mission Team as they led worship and shared some of their experiences on Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. We were a diverse group of 19 adults and one youth who hit the road to work in Arkansas. We stayed at Fern Cliff Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock, and one of the first surprises we had was finding out that the building we were staying in had NO AIR CONDITIONING. We stayed in the ECO Center – the largest Straw Bale Building in the United States. The building is known as a “green building” which sustains its heating and cooling using solar panels to generate its own electricity, and warm water filtration systems that flow through the buildings floors. While at Fern Cliff, we worked out in the garden and grounds helping with Maintenance on Monday, and then on Tuesday we worked at the DAC – The Disaster Assistance Center – for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Church World Service. We inspected, resealed, and packed over 2000 Health Kits to be used by persons in a disaster situation. Each health kit contained: One washcloth, one hand towel, a toothbrush, a nail clipper, a bar of soap, 10 band aids, and a large tooth comb. Each kit had to be exactly the same, no more and no less! We asked why no toothpaste went into the kit and found out it is because toothpaste has an expiration date!!









On Wednesday we ventured into downtown little Rock and worked at the Arkansas Food Bank. This food bank serves over a third of the state of Arkansas providing mass quantities of food to many local area food pantries and food programs. A new term that we learned was “food insecure”. This term is used to describe persons who do not have access to regular meals and food items due to poverty and life circumstances daily. In Little Rock and surrounding cities 1 in every 3 children, and 1 in every 3 persons over 65 are food insecure. At the food bank we had to put labels on cans donated by Del Monte. We labeled over 6000 cans in a 2 ½ hour period. What a team!! On Thursday we worked in Hot Springs at three different locations: 1) A food Kitchen where we prepared and served food to over 150 people. 2) A “used clothing” shop behind the food kitchen, labeling and helping clients with their purchases. 3) A Habitat for Humanity Restore where we put together a large shelving unit and moved clothes from downstairs to upstairs in the store.

Each morning we had quiet time before breakfast to read scripture and pray, and each evening we gathered for an evening vesper service and to talk about the events of the day. We even managed to get in a little sightseeing and recreation during the afternoons. Mission Team

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





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
August 2018			1 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 4:00p String Band - DR 6:00p AA Managers Mtg. – JH	2 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:00a Volunteers -Good Sam 2:00p 1 <sup>st</sup> Pres String Band @ Primrose	3 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 5:00p Celebration Parking <b>DECATUR CELEBRATION</b> August 3-5, 2018	4 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:00a Celebration Parking <b>DECATUR CELEBRATION</b> August 3-5, 2018
5 <b>Sacrament of the Lord's Supper</b> 9:45a Adult Christian Ed - DR <b>11:00a One Table Worship – Sanctuary</b> 12:15p Deacons Mtg. – YA 12:30p Celebration Parking <b>DECATUR CELEBRATION</b>	6 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 5:00p Adult Ministry - L 5:30p Worship & Music – GR 6:30p Mission Meeting - DR	7 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 5:00p Finance Committee-GR	8 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 4:00p String Band - DR 5:00p Evangelism & Membership Mtg. - L	9 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:30a Parish Visitors – YA TBD Children & Youth Ministry Meeting - AC 3:00p Administration Mtg-PO 6:00p Persistent Sisters-DR	10 7:00a AA Meeting – DR	11 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 
12 <b>8:45a NewSong – Chapel</b> 9:45a Adult Christian Ed - DR <b>11:00a Worship Service – S</b>	13 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 12:00p Tower Notes Articles Due 1:00p Pink Smoke – Chapel 6:30p Facilities Mtg.- Library	14 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:00p Worship Planning – L	15 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L 4:00p String Band - DR	16 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 	17 7:00a AA Meeting – DR	18 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 
19 <b>8:45a NewSong – Chapel</b> 9:45a Adult Christian Ed - DR <b>11:00a Worship Service – S</b> 5:00p Church Picnic at Fairview #1 East	20 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 1:30p Women's Bible Study-AC 7:00p Session Meeting - DR	21 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 11:30a Catholic Charities - YA 4:00p Health Ministry-L	22 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 4:00p String Band – DR	23 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a First Friends – GR 5:30p Women's Night Out – Crawfords in Mt. Zion	24 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 2:15p 1 <sup>st</sup> Pres String Band @ McKinley Ct.	25 7:00a AA Meeting – DR <b>Boots on the Ground Mission Day</b> 
26 <b>8:45a NewSong – Chapel</b> 9:45a Adult Christian Ed - DR <b>11:00a Worship Service – S</b>	27 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 12:00p Tower Notes Articles Due 1:00p Pink Smoke – Chapel	28 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:00p Worship Planning – L	29 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L 4:00p String Band – DR	30 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 	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

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



Merrill Dees – 2  
Jerry Atkins – 3  
Drew Davis – 3  
Scott Davidson – 4  
Judson DeVore – 5  
Jim May – 6  
Sarah Yepsen – 7

Liz Schwab – 8  
Melissa Grohne – 9  
Olivia Bachtold – 11  
Carol Ferry – 12  
Matthew Ward – 12  
Leland Shafter – 13  
Melanie Anderson – 15

Matt Ingram – 15  
Melissa Schulz – 15  
Debbie VanZant – 15  
Megan Smith – 17  
Betty Q. Smith – 18  
Angela Crowe - 20  
Carolyn Allin – 24

Linda Bullock – 24  
Earl Carpunky – 24  
David Holmlund – 24  
David Williams – 24  
Bob Dunn – 29  
Charles Platt – 29  
Fred Spannaus – 29

Jacob Blackburn – 30  
Ruth Holler – 30  
Walt Lohmann – 30  
Graham Schulz – 30  
Betsy Tietz – 30