

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, Ind. 46544

First Presbyterian News

September 2014

Volume 53 No. 2

Pastor's Column...

This month I want to update you on our transitional process.

The session has adopted a plan to lead the congregation to the point of electing a pastoral nominating committee. It involves two more after-worship “holy conversations” in September, and followed by a congregational meeting after worship on World Communion Sunday. It is as follows:

September 7: *A Special Sunday Plan* to join us as we begin our fall programming. In worship we begin a series focusing on God’s grace with stories from Exodus—this Sunday we will hear of the burning bush and the call of Moses. Our worship will include our “pick-up choir” and communion. Following worship, the congregation will be invited outside to the north steps for a picture, and then downstairs for a potluck lunch and table conversations on the church’s strengths, weaknesses and opportunities.

September 21: Potluck lunch after worship (meat & beverages provided; bring salads or desserts to share). Table discussions on the type of leadership desired.

October 5 (World Communion): *Peacemaking Offering.* Congregational Meeting after worship to elect a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) and officers for 2015. The target size for the PNC is seven members.

The session will meet after worship on September 14, and I will be gone on September 28.

I want to remind you that, as your transitional pastor, I am very involved in helping the congregation reach the point of electing a PNC. Once the PNC is elected, I continue as your pastor (during the term of my contract), but I am not involved in the search itself. I also want to remind you that I am neither eligible nor interested in being considered as your called pastor. You are a wonderful congregation to serve, but I want to return to retirement.

It is always difficult to predict how long a search process will take. Building on the results of our “holy conversations,” the PNC will work with our transitional care consultant, the Rev. Anna Parkinson, to draft the Ministry Information Form. This takes some time. The PNC will then begin the actual search, both formally (through the denomination’s computerized matching process) and informally through networking with the help of general (executive) presbyters. The good news is that there are many pastors seeking churches; the not-so-good news is that, if the church seeks part-time leadership, that can be harder to find than full-time leadership.

Though this congregation is relatively small in numbers, it is blessed with men and women with strong leadership experience and/or potential. Over the course of the next 16-18 months, the congregation will need many of you to step forward. Not only will it need seven good people on the PNC, it will need to replace three elders whose terms expire at the end of the year: Pam Camren of Worship & Music, Mary Ann Dentino of Mission, and Stan May of Finance & Stewardship. Please pray about your possible role in these important positions.

As we begin to focus on the future of our congregation and the leadership it seeks, I ask you to reflect on our congregation's strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities. If the congregation cannot afford full-time pastoral leadership, what are its options: part-time clergy? Shared leadership with another congregation? Commissioned ruling elder (CRE – formerly called commissioned lay pastor)? I encourage you to be open-minded and flexible as you think about the future.

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will lead us to truly discern God's will for our congregation, and to give us the courage and commitment to follow where the Spirit leads. Plan to attend the congregational gatherings and meetings. And be prepared to say “yes” if asked to serve God through this church.

Worship and Music News

Sunday, Sept 7. Hymn Festival, “pick-up choir” and communion
Congregational picture on front steps after worship
Lunch with sandwiches and drinks provided.
Members asked to bring salads and desserts.
 Continue “congregational conversations” in preparation for a pastoral search.

Friday & Saturday Presbytery of Wabash Valley meeting at Geneva Center
Sept. 12-13 Ruling Elder Darlene Seufert elected as commissioner.

Sunday, Sept. 21 Pot Luck Lunch after worship. **(meat & beverages provided; bring salads or desserts to share).** Bring your table service and favorite dish to serve many!
 Final meeting for congregational conversations”

Sunday, Sept. 28 **Pastor Steve away. Dr. Don Neely preaching**

Sunday, Oct. 5 **World Communion Sunday**
Congregational Meeting after worship

Session is calling a meeting of the congregation for the purpose of electing elders, deacons and a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The Nominating Committee of the congregation will be working over the next few weeks to have names to place in nomination at that meeting. Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to serve the ministry of First Presbyterian Church as an elder, deacon or member of the PNC and let Elder David Sulak, chair of the committee, know of your call and interest.

Special thanks to Dr. Paul Walker for arranging the amazing organists who have enhanced our worship this summer. Paul filled in when others needed to be away and each demonstrated their love of sacred music and playing for the congregation.

BRAVO! Dr. Mark Doerries, Caleb Wenzel and of course, Dr. Walker.

Pam Camren, Worship & Music Elder

Session Notes from Clerk of Session, Pam Camren

Wedding Ministry

FPC Session has approved policies, procedures and fees for First Presbyterian Church’s wedding ministry. The purpose in opening the use of our beautiful sanctuary for weddings is to generate additional income for the church. These weddings will be closely supervised by FPC members who will receive reimbursement for the services they provide for the rehearsal and wedding as outlined in the adopted policies.

Non-members will be welcome to use the sanctuary for weddings. A “staff” coordinator will “get the ball rolling” when a bridal couple decides to use our facility for their wedding. A team of FPC wedding coordinators will be assigned to the couple and assist with planning for the use of the building. Only FPC approved “staff”; organist, custodian, wedding coordinators and sound tech will be allowed to provide services for the wedding.

This is a new ministry for FPC but it is felt that we can utilize the building itself to generate income and become more visible in the community. Please pray that this venture shows the loving outreach of members of FPC.

Clerk of Session, Pam Camren



Photo Directory and Church Website

The new FPC Photo Directory will soon be ready for printing. Many thanks to Ron May for taking individual photos and for the group photo to be taken on the **front steps after worship on Sunday, September 7** which will be used on the new website being developed. Photos of church activities should be submitted to Pastor Steve.

Clerk of Session, Pam Camren

Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School

Fall classes start the Monday after Labor Day, **September 8th** (classes 8:45 to 11:15 a.m.). There are still a few openings if you know of anyone looking to enroll their children in a pre-school this fall. The more kids, the more sharing and learning can happen. Some items that the school can always use are any craft items; felt, yarn, straws with big openings, feathers, tennis balls, regular size balls and some bigger balls for the younger children (they are easier to catch) and bikes. (some big wheels are toooo big for the younger children to reach the pedals.) Of course, keep bringing in those soup labels to help out our children.

Thank you, the PWNS Staff

What Would Life Be Like If: Stress Was Your Friend Come to the Mary Morris Leighton's Lecture 2014 on **September 10 at 7:00p.m.** at the Hilton Garden Inn. You will hear one of Forbes 20 most inspiring women and bestselling author of The Willpower Instinct, Kelly McGonigal, Ph.D. Check the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

Book club is still determining a book selection, but we will meet **September 21 at 2:00 p.m.** Watch bulletin for more details. Book readers, conversationalists, young, old, in between all are welcome to join us. The discussion is always lively and our time together is truly a blessing.

SCRAPBOOKING CLUB

Join us for some fellowship and fun at our Scrapbooking/Crafting Group! We meet in the Fellowship Hall from 6 pm to 11 pm. Provided is the set-up, clean-up, drinks, and tableware. The cost is \$5. If able, please bring a snack to share. Feel free to bring any type of project that you have to work on...remember Christmas is only 16 weeks away. The list of dates for 2014 are below, mark your calendars and join us for the next few. Looking forward to seeing you there, Brittany Rice scrap.brittany@comcast.net

Sept. 26th Oct. 24th Nov. 21st no Dec.

MAC Mishawaka Alliance of Care The Albright Food Pantry continues its mission. The summer numbers always show children on vacation, lunch time means an increase in the amount of food needed around the family table. Also the cases of the number of clients among the elderly remains high. Thankfully donations of food & money have been steady. Working with the Food Bank in South Bend and the distribution of government commodities has kept the Pantry operating. Focus for the past month has been the need for school supplies to help students get off to a good start. The Pack-a-Backpack event went well. Volunteers began organizing the donated items on August 4 at the St. Vincent DePaul building, and more volunteers came as the week progressed. Recruiting volunteers from the Albright Food Pantry to help with the project allowed for backpacks to be distributed in the Mishawaka area. Some other of the MAC churches have partnered with Mishawaka elementary schools. First Presbyterian Church has been in partnership with Battell Elementary School for several years; therefore, the items donated from church members were delivered to Battell.

Carol Minix, volunteer director at the Food Pantry, has asked all MAC churches to promote volunteering at the Pantry. Some older, long time volunteers are having to serve fewer hours. **PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING AN HOUR OR SO EACH WEEK OR EVEN EACH MONTH.** It has been calculated volunteer hourly service amounts to about \$22.00 per hour. All sorts of opportunities are there, from checking in clients as they arrive, filling pantry shelves, using donated funds to shop, or working at the Food Bank in South Bend. **HELP IS NEEDED AT THE ALBRIGHT FOOD PANTRY**

PEACEMAKING OFFERING

There are many factors in the world that divide us. They exist among the nations, in our communities, throughout congregations, in the midst of households across the globe and within ourselves. Through these dividers, we as God's children, become broken. Paul's letter to the Ephesians describes peace as a spiritual bonding agent, holding us together through the love of Christ. It restores our fractured pieces to a whole, creating a connection between us. Through this, we experience the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

The PEACEMAKING OFFERING, funds the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, enabling us to bring in International Peacemakers, hold conferences, and advocate for active nonviolent solutions to conflict. **This offering will be received on October 5.** Twenty-five percent of the offering will be kept to be used in the community. The community organization receiving the 25 % is Broadway Christian Parish. The congregation will hear more about the mission of this church during minutes for mission.

Please participate in this offering and help make the Season of Peace a time to renew your commitment and reaffirm your calling to peacemaking. Together, we can transform cultures of violence into communities of peace.



Presbyterian Women

2014–2015 CALENDAR

September 18 PW Circle Kick-Off in Fellowship Hall

a light supper 6:00 p.m. and Bible Study Introduction

- TBA PW Fall Gathering
- Oct. 19 Dedication Sunday - Together in Service Projects
- Nov. 4 Bake Sale work night 6:00–8:00 p.m.
- Nov. 5 Finish items (bag noodles)
- Nov. 7 Set up for Bake Sale in Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.
- Nov. 8 Bake Sale - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fellowship Hall
- Dec. 6 Breakfast with Santa
- Jan. 10 PW Winter Gathering/Carry-in Brunch 10 a.m.
- Jan. 19 Kitchen clean-up 10:00 a.m.
- Mar. 14 Joint Circle Mtg. & Bible Study @10:00 a.m.
Carry-in Brunch Election of Officers
- Apr. 19 –Apr. 22 Basement Sale work days
- Apr. 23 Basement Sale 9 - 6 p.m.
- Apr. 24 Basement Sale 9 – 2 p.m.
- Apr. 25 Bag sale 10 – noon/Clean up to follow
- Apr. 12 Gifts of Women Sunday - Honorary Memberships
Birthday Offering Celebration
- June 3 Calendar Meeting & Supper @ Church 5:30 p.m.
- June 18-21 Church wide Gathering in Minneapolis, MN

Please plan to join us on the 18th, as we start a new bible study, share dinner and enjoy an evening of fellowship.



PWCT meeting dates

2014-2015

- Sept. 7 at noon
- Oct. 5 at noon
- Nov. 2 at noon
- Dec. No meeting
- Jan. 10 at 9:00
mtg., Brunch & Winter
Gathering
- Feb. 1 at noon
- Mar. 14 at 9:00
mtg., brunch & Joint Bible
Study
- Apr. 2015 * If needed
- May 2015 * If needed
- June 3 at 5:30 (Calendar
planning)

CHURCH STAFF**Transitional Pastor****Steve Braden**

revsbb91@gmail.com

Church Secretary**Debra Leonard**

Debrafcpmishawaka@gmail.com

Financial Secretary**Joan Horvath**

joan@fcpmishawaka.org

Organist Michael Duryea

mduryea@nd.edu

Custodian Ken Vargo*just give a shout!*

Church Office hours: 9:00 to 12:00, Monday thru Thursday

Pastor hours: Monday and Wednesday

Secretary hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays

Financial Secretary hours: Monday and Thursday mornings.

Contact us at (574) 259-7874 or Fax (574) 259-1948

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The editor of the newsletter would like to stress church secretary Debra's email address as it is slightly different from the church and financial secretary Joan's address. Note **fcp** instead of the fpc, please check your addresses book and correct if needed.

**Church Officers and Committees**

The Session: Pam Camren,
Mary Ann Dentino, John Martz,
Stan May, Bruce McClure,
Darlene Seufert

Board of Deacons: Bill Bellairs,
Tom Camren, Lynett Heritz, Carole
Polk, Bill Walter, Chris Wukovits

Facilities and Operations

John Martz, chair (elder)
Ethan DeMaegd, Dick Dentino,
Chuck Wukovits

Christian Education: Darlene Seufert

Finance: Stan May, Chair

Mission and Evangelism:

Mary Ann Dentino, Chair

Nominating: Dave Sulak, Chair
(Elder)

Personnel: Bruce McClure, Chair

Presbyterian Women: Judy Green
and Darlene Siefert

PWNS Board: John Rice, Chair

Special Gifts: Sue Rice, acting chair

Stewardship: Ron May, Chair

Worship and Music: Pam Camren, Chair

Book Club: Judy Green

Prayer Chain: Lynett Heritz

Scrap Booking: Brittany Rice

Fall Adult Education...

Due to our after-worship events in September, we won't start adult Sunday School until October. Watch for further details about the class to be offered then.

Possible Mid-week Class: If there is sufficient interest, we will offer a mid-week class on end-of-life issues called *Ending Well*. Pastor Steve and others will lead sessions on topics such as health care directives & living wills, powers of attorney, options for care (assisted living, nursing homes, etc.) hospice, basics of estate planning, cremation/burial arrangements, and funeral planning. If you are interested, please call the church office, email Pastor Steve, or sign up on the Cupboard Corner bulletin board.



Energy Conservation

Facilities and Operations Elder, John Martz and many former trustees are working together to explore ways for FPC to become more energy efficient. Lighting, heating and air conditioning are being looked at for ways to be more conscious of our usage. Turning off lights and closing doors when you leave an area of the building as the last person are easy ways for you to be part of the effort. This especially true in the winter time when cold air "rushes" through the building. This link may be helpful for our congregation for energy conservation. There are 12 sections, one per month that will appear in the monthly newsletter. This month try, <http://earthcareindiana.org/tomp> This information comes from a group of local churches who meet about how to save energy. Remember, it is everyone's responsibility to help any way we can. Watch for more news from this committee in the near future. John Martz



September 2014

Please remember when the preschool is in session to not park in east parking lot. Thank You.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|-----------|---|--|--|--|
|  | <i>1 office closed</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>4 PWNS orientation 6pm</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>7</i> Ushers Mike and Mikey G. Worship Leader Stan M. Communion Picture on step and lunch Congregation conversation | <i>8</i> <i>Preschool Starts</i> <i>Deacon 7pm</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>10</i> | <i>11</i> | <i>12</i> | <i>13</i>  |
| <i>14</i> Ushers Carole P. and Bill B. Worship Leader Chuck W. Session meeting | <i>15</i> | <i>16</i> | <i>17</i> <i>Newsletter deadline</i> | <i>18</i> <i>6 p.m. Presbyterian Women's Kick-off</i> | <i>19</i> | <i>20</i> |
| <i>21</i> Ushers Dick D. and Neil S. Worship Leader Darlene S. Lunch and Congregation conversation Book Club 2 p.m. | <i>22</i> | <i>23</i> | <i>24</i> | <i>25</i> | <i>26</i> <i>Scrapbook Club 6-11pm fellowship</i> | <i>27</i> |
| <i>28</i> Ushers Mike and Mikey G. Worship Leader Chris W. | <i>29</i> | <i>30</i> | Newsletter deadline is September 17 at noon. Please send information for September or any future newsletter to Sue Rice at suce@aol.com or you can mail information to Debra the church secretary. | | | |

Worship 10:00 Fellowship 11:00 Adult Church School starting in October

“Mission” Tea SAVE THE DATE
Mark **October 12 at 2:00 p.m.** on your calendar. Plan to attend the MISSION TEA and sample a variety of teas plus some delicious items to go with your tea. You will then have the opportunity to order the tea you most enjoy.
All proceeds will be used for cisterns in Xpujil or women's mission projects. PLEASE JOIN US

Calling all Crafters!
FPC is having a Bazaar on **October 18, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** For those who would like to have a booth, tables are \$30 each. Contact Debra, church secretary for all inquires. Presbyterian Women will be serving food throughout the day and there will be a "Grama's Attic". If you have some interesting items to donate to the "Attic" set them aside to bring in by the 17th of October. Its going to be a fun time! Tell all your crafting friends, mark it in your calendars, and clean out your cupboards!