



First Press

A Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor
June/July/August 2015 ■ Volume 63, Number 6



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Dear Friends,

The end of the school year is fast approaching and with it may come a more relaxed pace. What are you planning for the summer? First Pres offers lots to look forward to. Through Vacation Bible School our children will journey back in time to 27-28 AD to learn what life was like when Jesus walked the hills of Galilee. Our youth will travel to Guatemala to hold a Bible School there, complete with ingeniously designed life-size puppets. All ages are invited to help tend our new Rehobeth Interfaith Garden, which will supply fresh produce to needy Washtenaw County neighbors. Our All-Church picnic will be on June 7. On June 14, many will travel to cheer the Detroit Tigers to victory, and on June 28 we will move our 9:30 a.m. worship service outdoors to the front walk for six Sundays.

Several special worship notes: Resident Minister Kristin Riegel, who has accepted a call to serve as an associate pastor in Kansas City, will preach all services on her final Sunday with us, June 14. Grace Lindvall, who spent many formative years at First Pres and who will graduate from Princeton Seminary later this spring, will preach for us June

28. Continuing my encouragement to you last month to look for theological themes all around us, I will preach a mini-series on theological themes found in works of fiction (watch Our Life Together for details so you can read along if you wish), and Resident Minister Lal Rodawla will preach on his final Sunday with us, August 9. Don't let your worship attendance lapse over the summer, and remember you have the option of worshipping in air conditioned Monteith at 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. June 28 through Labor Day.

I am looking forward to preaching "up north" one Sunday later in the summer and may make my first trip to the Upper Peninsula. Michigan is a beautiful part of God's good creation! Blessings on your summer, whatever your plans. Please pass along the names of good books you encounter and I'll share my finds with you as well.

Grace and peace,

Fairfax F. Fair
Pastor/Head of Staff



Summer Worship Schedule

- June 7** – 8:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall, 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, **No 11:00 service – CHURCH PICNIC**
- June 14 & 21** – 8:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- June 28 - August 2** – 8:00 & 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall, **9:30 a.m. – OUTSIDE WORSHIP**
- August 9 - 30** – 8:00 & 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall, 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- September 6** – 8:00 & 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall, **9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary & ICE CREAM SOCIAL**
- September 13** – Fall worship schedule resumes.

Cut this out and put it on your refrigerator!





Farewell from Rev. Kristin Riegel



In July 2015, I will begin serving as the Associate Pastor at Second Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri, where I will work with the Faith Formation (Adult Ed) Committee and Deacons. As I head to Kansas City, I am leaving with immense gratitude for First Pres and its resident ministry program. It has been a great privilege to work, serve, and learn with you over the past two years. First Pres has helped me to discern, discover, and live more deeply into my call to pastoral ministry and for this, I am so grateful. Thank you!

All-Church Picnic

**There's Still Time to Reserve Your Spot!
(And Save a Dollar Doing It!)**

Please make a reservation! Be sure to save your spot at the June 7 all-church picnic! We'll enjoy the delicious chicken, pork, and kielbasa barbecue of Ann Arbor's Satchel's BBQ; have giant inflatables for little kids as well as big ones; enjoy games for kids of all ages; and welcome the band Chief Officers' Blues, featuring our member Dallas Dort. The cost is \$7 per person if you pay ahead online, or \$8 at the door. There is no family maximum cost set for this event. Children 5 and under eat for free. Sign up now at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/allchurch-picnic-reservation-2015/>



Congregational Meeting – June 21

In keeping with the pledge to provide clear and up to date information to the congregation, the Session has called a congregational meeting to follow the 9:30 worship service on June 21 to hear reports on the business affairs of the church.

Last Chance for Directory Photos

Sign Up for Last Session – June 12 - 14

There are just three days left to have your professional photo taken with Lifetouch. Please make your appointment for June 12, June 13, or June 14. The new directory will be distributed in September. Go to www.firstpresbyterian.org, or call the Church Office (662-4466) for an appointment.

Stephen Ministry

On Sunday, May 31, First Presbyterian commissioned its latest class of Stephen Ministers. We welcomed Jim Clark, Diane Hoff, Martha Kershaw, Linda Koopmann, Victor Rotberg, Marita Servais, Sharon Sheldon, and Cary Tripp to the roster of those serving in this ministry. All of them have offered their unique selves to the 50 hours of training required before commissioning – training which helped them to develop a set of skills useful in one-on-one caregiving, which was firmly founded in their compassionate and Christ-centered lives, and which emphasized a relationship of trust and confidentiality as the most basic element of their work with those who come to them in need. We are indebted to Stephen Leader Mary McKeever for her tireless efforts to organize the training and to provide the best learning experience possible.

Now fully qualified, the new Stephen Ministers will begin meeting twice monthly with the current Stephen Ministers for peer supervision and once a month for continuing education. The meeting regimen is critical to maintaining a faithful and effective Stephen Ministry program and is participated in by all active Stephen Ministers, even when not assigned to a care receiver. In supervision we offer one another perspective and prayerful support so that we, in turn, are equipped to offer Christian companionship to those who request a Stephen Minister at a difficult point in their lives.

Please help us celebrate the achievement of these new Stephen Ministers upon the completion of their training. Pray for each of them that their hearts may continue to be willing and that their service will be fruitful. We hope you will seek the help of a Stephen Minister when the struggles of life threaten to overwhelm you, and that you will keep a loving eye out for others who might benefit from the program, as well. Your support of this caring ministry is crucial to its success, and we are deeply grateful.



Back row (left to right): Jim Clark, Linda Koopmann, Marita Servais, Martha Kershaw, Cary Tripp. **Front row (left to right):** Diane Hoff, Mary McKeever (training co-ordinator), Sharon Sheldon. **Not Pictured:** Victor Rotberg.



Bridge at First Pres

Are you are interested in playing bridge? First Pres hosts a bridge group that meets every Thursday. The group plays at an intermediate level. For details please email Don Deatrick at ddeatrick@live.com.

First Press in August

The September edition of First Press will be issued the last week of August. Submissions will be due August 15. Submissions should be sent to Mary Jones at mjones@firstpresbyterian.org AND Lisa Haddrill at lhaddrill@firstpresbyterian.org.

Congregational Life Committee – Superheros in Presbyterian Clothing

Are you excited for the next great All-Church Picnic? It doesn't happen by magic - but by committee - the First Pres Congregational Life Committee, that is. (Presbyterians are fond of committees!) Besides putting on the church picnic (no small feat, we might add!), there are many vital responsibilities this committee fulfills. If you think about it, it is pretty much everything that is not worship, mission, finance, property, or personnel. Quite simply, it is the job of the Congregational Life Committee to handle a broad range of critical tasks which build the life and community of our church family. From getting people into the pews through advertisements, welcoming visitors and new members, organizing the directory, planning and staffing coffee hours, holding special events, and more — members of Congregational Life are responsible for so much of what makes First Pres have a wonderful life!

Every Sunday, there are “secret greeters” - people in the pews who take it upon themselves to talk to someone they don't know and reach out in warmth. After Sunday worship, every week, one of our members goes through the friendship pads, collecting the names of visitors. Those names and contact information are sent to the church office for addition to weekly emails and distribution to staff members. First-time visitors are called by a First Pres member recruited by our team, and also receive special notes and cards. College-age and young adult visitors are welcomed by campus ministry. A database is maintained to help us track visitors so they can be invited to New Member classes, also held by Congregational Life, four times per year. When new members join, Congregational Life hosts a New Member breakfast, held before church to present them to Session and provide the first welcome to membership.

Our committee recruits cookie bakers and sponsors for coffee hour. We sell Fair Trade Coffee to offset the cost of the church serving it at coffee hour. We give mugs and other gifts to first-time visitors at coffee hour, as well. We also provide a children's activity table. We staff the Welcome Center so that guests to our church don't get lost. The greeters at the outside doors to welcome people to our church on Sunday mornings and answer questions are organized by — you guessed it - us! When it is time for membership directories, we help to set up photo sessions and serve many hours staffing the sign-in tables. Finally, we distribute the directories to members. Our committee folks determine where to place ads in local publications.

And then there are the events! Congregational Life facilitates all the big church events. We provide and manage the luncheon following the Annual Meeting in January. We decorate and set up the room, serve the food and clean up afterwards. We organize Gift of the Magi at Christmastime and put on the All Church Christmas dinner. Once again Congregational Life members set up, serve, collect money, and clean up when it is over. The Summer Picnic goes on rain or shine. We organize it, supervise the games, and provide servers and clean up. Committee members have a great opportunity to enjoy inter-facing with congregational members as they assist with numerous activities throughout the year.

Our favorite work relates to visitors - we work really hard to make sure they know they are welcomed. With an invitation to the new member class, we hope they will join, and be alerted to special activities that might be of interest to them. We are a prayerful committee. At our monthly meetings we set aside time to pray for a portion of the congregation for whom we have sent cards asking for any special prayer needs.

As you can see, the Congregational Life Committee takes care of...well, Congregational Life! If you would like to learn more about committee activities please contact Bill McPherson, chair, wbmcperson@comcast.net, or Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.





Children & Families

Register Now for Summer Vacation Bible School

Our Summer Vacation Bible School – Marketplace 27-28 A.D. – is June 16, 17, and 18, 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Children Kindergarten through 5th grade complete travel back in time to see what life was like in Jesus’ time. They visit marketplace shops and make crafts, travel to the story tellers tent, and witness events in Jesus’ life re-enacted by our street players. The Kelsey Museum will bring an exhibit one day and there will be live animals another. All are welcome! Register at www.firstpresbyterian.org. Questions? Contact Debbie MacVey at dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org or Cindy King at cking@firstpresbyterian.org.



Enroll now for Camp Westminster

First Pres kids will go to camp on beautiful Higgins Lake from July 26-August 1. Children currently in second through eighth grade are eligible. Over 30 children have already registered. Friends are always welcome. Camp Westminster is a Presbyterian camp on Higgins Lake, 200 miles north. Camp Westminster is a traditional overnight camp experience, with swimming, boating, archery, soccer, arts and crafts, singing, campfires, and more. Older campers who have completed grade six through grade eight will also have a canoe trip on the AuSable River. Campers have a lot to say about camp! “Camp Westminster means many things to me. It means one whole week of fun and new friends. It means a new lot of responsibility. But, most of all camp means a chance to connect with God ... I love camp!” Check out the camp photos from previous years on the bulletin board on the 400 level at church. Sign up at www.firstpresbyterian.org. Camperships are available. Questions? Contact Debbie MacVey at dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org or Rev. Jim Monnett at jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org



Youth Connections

Summer Youth Events - Mark Your Calendars!



9th-12th Graders

- **Keystones at the Lake – July 8**
Come out to Clear Lake for pontoon boating, swimming, and grilling fun from 4:00 - 10:00 p.m. Car pools will leave at 3:30 p.m. from the Meijer Parking Lot on Jackson Road.
- **Art Fair Parking – July 15-18**
Come work two shifts or more to raise money for Youth Mission. This is an all-hands-on-deck event with shifts from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 12:00-4:00 p.m., and 3:30-7:30 p.m. Bring a parent or a friend to earn more money. To earn money you must work two shifts. We need eight people per shift.
- **Hiram Road Trip – August 6-8**
We are heading to Hiram, Ohio for bouldering/hiking at Nelson Ledges State Park, creek walking in the Chagrin River, swimming at the Nelson Ledges Quarry, and a day at the Wild Water Kingdom water park. The cost is \$140 if you sign up by June 10.

6th-8th Graders

- **Art Fair Parking – July 15-18**
Work with a parent on a three-hour shift to support Youth Mission at First Pres.
- **Camp Westminster – July 26-August 1**
Register for another great week on Higgins Lake with Bible Quest, canoe trip, swimming, crafts, and Nuke’m. See RJ for more information and to sign up.
- **Genesis Action Camp – August 11-13**
Grab your friends and come for amazing days of big fun at church – with Rolling Hills, Yuck Day, and so much more. Our high school Youth Interns put together three great days of fun and chaos to make the dog days of summer bark. The cost is \$40. Sign up now or sign up later, but don’t forget to sign up for three great days of mayhem.

Questions? Contact RJ (Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett) at jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org for more information.



Congratulations 2015 Graduates!

High School Graduates

Dallas Colligan

Daughter of Merri Lynn and Kerry Colligan
Grandaughter of Diane and Bob Hockett
Attending the University of Michigan

Alexander Deatrick

Grandson of Don Deatrick
Attending Amherst College

Christina Fosheim-Hoag

Daughter of Robin Fosheim and Dan Hoag
Attending the University of Michigan

Karl Gage

Son of Wendy Rampson-Gage and
Philip Gage
Attending Miami University (Ohio)

Ben Lindstrom

Son of Deanna and Eric Lindstrom
Attending Case Western Reserve University

Ian McKenny

Son of Cathy and Steve McKenny
Attending the University of Michigan

Madison Mervis

Daughter of Kim and Doug Mervis
Attending the University of Michigan

Emily Newman

Daughter of Deanna and Eric Lindstrom
Attending Carnegie Mellon University

Reizo Osawa

Son of Gail and Yoichi Osawa
Attending Michigan State University

Vincent Pakela

Son of Stacey and Gregg Pakela
Attending Washtenaw Community College

Sorbie Richner

Daughter of Mori and Cedric Richner
Attending St. Olaf College

Shawn Roberts

Son of Marylou and Brian Roberts
Attending Albion College

Lillian Scheske

Daughter of Joan and Gary Scheske
Attending Michigan State University

Ryan Snyder

Son of Debbie and Brad Snyder
Attending Eastern Michigan University

Holden Tamblyn

Son of Diane and Patrick Tamblyn
Attending the University of
California - Davis

Erin Tichenor

Daughter of Sharon Watling and
Paul Tichenor
Attending Boston University

Undergraduate /Advanced Degrees

Bernie Berrigan

Master of Science,
Human Resources &
Organizational Behavior
Eastern Michigan University

Erika Boothman

Master of Public Health
Johns Hopkins

Russell Bornschein

PhD, Analytical Chemistry
University of Michigan

Julia Butz

B.A., American Studies
Georgetown University

Laura Cameron

Master of Social Work
University of Michigan

Lauren Dayton

Master of Public Health
Johns Hopkins

Elizabeth Przybylski Deatrick

Master of Science, Science Journalism
Boston University

Ryan Gardner

Juris Doctor
DePaul University

Alexa Geider

B.S., Environmental Studies
Calvin College

Nathan Halliday

Master of Business Administration
Wayne State University

Carl Kershaw

B.S.E. in Computer Science Engineering
University of Michigan

Clare Lindley

Master of Social Work
University of Washington

Matthew MacVey

Master of Journalism
City University of New York

Elizabeth McCubbrey,

Bachelor of Fine Arts
University of Michigan

Kate Rogers

Master of Urban and Regional Planning
Portland State University

Stefan Shaffer

B.A. in Creative Writing and
Political Science
Hope College

Rachelle Snyder

B.S., Kinesiology
Michigan State University

David Washington

Master of Arts, Studio Arts
Eastern Michigan University





Rehobeth Interfaith Garden

The Rehobeth Interfaith Garden is off and growing! On Sunday, May 17, volunteers from First Pres and Hillel teamed up to plant tomatoes, flowers, and a variety of other herbs and vegetables on the Hill Street property. Special thanks to Paul Smith for doing such a lovely job preparing the bed. The fresh produce will grow all summer long and will be harvested and donated to Food Gatherers at the Labor Day Communion Sunday Food collection. Volunteers are needed to weed, water, and care for the garden over the summer. This is a unique opportunity for First Pres members to engage in community building with our Hillel neighbors while continuing to explore food and environmental justice issues. Questions? Contact Kathy Wirstrom, chair of the Rehobeth Interfaith Garden Committee at kwirstrom@yahoo.com. Want to help? Sign up online at www.firstpresbyterian.org.



Summer Communion Sunday Food Collections – June 7, July 5, August 2

On the first Sunday of each month, as we come to the Table for Communion, we receive food and funds to support various organizations that feed the hungry. This summer, the food collections will be sponsored by the Local Mission committee on June 7, with donations given to Food Gatherers; Mature Ministries on July 5, with donations given to Hope Clinic; and Presbyterian Women on August 2, with donations given to Detroit Hunger Ministry. We encourage you to help feed others on these Sundays when the Lord feeds us.

Hope Amidst Adversity

The Plight and Perseverance of Children in Israel/Palestine

On Saturday, June 6, the Israel Palestine Mission Team will host a one-day study retreat entitled, “Hope Amidst Adversity: The Plight and Perseverance of Children in Israel/Palestine.” All are invited to come and learn about the status and experiences of children in Israel and Palestine through presentations, discussions, and a peacemaking service. To learn more or register, visit <http://firstpresbyterian.org/event/israel-palestine-study-retreat>. Suggested donation: \$10 (for a catered Kurdish meal).

Keeping Up with the Ludwigs



As the Ludwigs move into the heart of the hot season in Niger, they are called back to the power of these words: “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.” (Romans 12:12). They write, “We did a lot of rejoicing last month with a variety of celebratory events including a naming party, a bridal dowry party, and a mourning gathering. We’re hopeful for a solution to water problems soon, so we don’t have to carry buckets on the back of the donkey cart going to the well! Hope and patience in suffering and perseverance in prayer have hit home hard with our church family with justice and language studies issues.” Please continue to keep the Ludwigs in your prayers and in particular pray for work on the final details of the theological education consultation work Michael is involved with as well as the Ludwigs’ daily living conditions.

Meet the Ludwigs Monday, June 1 at 6:00 p.m.

The Mission Committee is pleased to invite you and your family to a special evening on Monday, June 1, when Michael and Rachel Ludwig will be introduced. The Ludwigs, are First Presbyterian’s PC(USA) mission co-workers serving in Niger in cooperation with the Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger. First Pres has committed Mission funds to help support the Ludwig’s since 2014. Please join us for a 6:00 p.m. potluck dinner. The Mission Committee will provide the main dish. Bring a side, salad, or dessert to share. After dinner, stay for a 7:00 p.m. presentation by the Ludwigs about their work and experiences serving our brothers and sisters in Christ.

2015 School Supply Rescue and Recycling Project



Hold the dates of Thursday, June 25, Friday, June 26, and Saturday, June 27 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., for a day of mission service. This is the 2015 School Supply Rescue and Recycling project. This is the annual project to distribute the school supplies and books that are still valuable but no longer used by Washtenaw County elementary schools and donate them to eager students and teachers in schools in the Philippines, Ghana, Romania, and also in Hamtramck, Michigan. If you can count and sort crayons, pencils, and pens, if you can sort text books and story books, if you can fill shipping boxes with assorted supplies or put tape on the boxes, you can help. Please pass the word and bring a friend. The more hands, the shorter and more fun, the task. Come for as many hours or days as you can and work as long as you are able. Enjoy the fellowship, snacks, and service of the many volunteers at the home of Len and Ginny Rezmierski - 1050 Elmwood Drive, Ann Arbor.

Haiti Reunion Celebration and Fundraiser Saturday, June 27, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.



Join us for an authentic Haitian dinner, Caribbean music, and a chance to visit with Dean Hilda Alcindor and Rev. Dr. Michael Lindvall as we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Haiti Nursing School. Tickets are \$50/person or \$90/couple, a portion of which is tax deductible. Make your reservations by going to www.haitinursing.org, or contact the Haiti Nursing Foundation at 353-9565, or info@haitinursing.org. Make checks payable to the Haiti Nursing Foundation. This event is hosted by the First Presbyterian Haiti Medical Mission Team and Haiti Nursing Foundation.



Going Green!

Over the next six weeks, the sixty-six 1930's vintage windows – and the asbestos around them – in First Pres' Lemon wing will be removed. New windows will lower our energy costs and make us better stewards of the environment. The total cost for each replacement is \$2500. Twenty windows have already been given. Please consider an extra gift to update our facility and help us go green!

Nepal Earthquake Response

"I'm still afraid", says 10-year old Sasmita Susmitalopchan after another major earthquake struck Nepal on May 11th. The massive earthquake and aftershocks that shook Nepal and neighboring countries on April 25th left thousands dead or injured. While it is too early to know the additional damage caused by this quake, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) will continue supporting the work of our partners in Nepal through ACT Alliance in recovery efforts from the April 25 quake and will respond as needed to the most recent one.

PDA's local partners through ACT Alliance have been working in Nepal for several years and are on the ground assisting many who survived the quake by distributing immediate life-saving supplies such as water, food, shelter and medication. Through PDA, Presbyterians are committed to the long-term response. <http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/nepal-earthquake-april-2015/>

Financial assistance is needed. You may donate to Nepal via PDA/Presbyterian Disaster Assistance by designating a gift through First Pres with "Nepal" in the memo line, or give directly to PDA by clicking here <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR999999/>

Our best response is prayer. Pray that through the response of the faith community, survivors and those offering assistance will be reminded of the hope that is found in Christ. Pray without ceasing.



Photo: ACT/FCA/Aum, Bel

Help Save Lives! Give Blood Tuesday, July 14

The Deacons' Blood Drive is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Monteith Hall. As the Red Cross says, "The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give blood." Please help! Sign up to donate blood, online at www.redcrossblood.org. Questions? Contact John Yodhes at jyodhes@gmail.com, or Susan Sweet Scott at 320-5819. Donating blood is a simple thing to do, and it will make a huge difference in the lives of others.



Book, Bake, and ReUse Sale

The Philippines Mission Team had another successful sale on May 2. This annual fund raiser offers members of the congregation the opportunity to clean out items they no longer need, and we turn those items into money to help us with the mission projects we support. So, it is a win-win for First Pres ... and the Social Hall is back to normal the next morning for Coffee Hour! The Harriett Brouwer-led bake sale went well. Thanks to Harriett and all the bakers who baked for days and donated the many wonderful variety of baked items. Good going all! We sincerely thank everyone who helped us by donating items and working. We especially wish to thank our custodians Mike, Elizabeth, and Jason for their immense help. At the end of the sale, the remaining items went to Friends In Deed, Salvation Army, and another help organization in Ypsilanti. A special friend of John Kinzinger, Al Walk, allowed us to store items during the previous year, then loaded them on his stake truck and brought them to the church. Those items included estate and moving items from a few church members collected throughout the year. Our Philippines Mission Team members put in many hours of preparation the two days before, during the sale, and at the end to help load the trucks afterwards. We did this work with love in our hearts for those we help in the Philippines. A special thank you to all of you from Sale Chairman John Kinzinger!



Thank You from Davydovo, Russia!

In 2012, First Pres donated the Christmas Eve offering to the PC(USA) Mission co-workers at the Russian Orthodox Church in the village of Davydovo, Russia. The gift helped the community of Davydovo rebuild a center to serve children with disabilities and their parents, at-risk teens, and other marginalized people. This Easter, Father Vladimire Klimzo sent the following thank-you note along with photographs on the progress of the construction.



Dear Pastor Jay, Christ is risen!

We greet you and all the brothers and sisters of First Presbyterian Church with the holiday of holidays, with Easter, Christ's resurrection! On behalf of our Orthodox community, we express our gratitude to all of you for your support of our ministry to individuals with special needs. On the 17th of April, 2015 we received in our account funds in the amount of \$9880. This will allow us to continue reconstruction next week of the dormitory for families with handicapped children. We will send you an accounting of these funds immediately, after the next phase of reconstruction.

God bless you for your mercy!

With love in Christ, Father Vladimire Klimzo

Rector of the Church in Honor of the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God



Transitions

Memorial Services

Bob Snyder, June 7
Dorothy Barrow, July 11

We Grieve the Death of

John Laird, May 7





Annual Giving

Stewardship

by Gail Grady

What is Stewardship? What does it mean to you?

Our committee has been discussing this as we begin to plan for next fall. And we've discovered that stewardship means different things to each person at First Pres. To some, it is a way of honoring and serving God. To others, it may be what we do after we say we believe. Some serve God and First Pres in visible ways—they usher, serve on a committee, greet on Sunday, volunteer in the office, teach Sunday school, donate food on the first Sunday of the month, or help with the Wednesday evening meal at Delonis Center. Others prefer to contribute quietly in a financial way. Some do both.



What DOES stewardship mean to you?

Ponder it. Pray about it. And then remember that whatever you do, you are giving to God. HAVE you turned in your pledge card for 2015? If not, it is surely not too late. It is important to remember that you are not "locked in" to your pledge should your financial situation change in the year. No one at First Pres will ever discuss your pledge with you. It is between you and God.



Status of 2015 Pledge Goal

2015 Pledge Goal: \$1,604,677
 As May 18, 2015: \$1,584,260
 563 member households have made a financial commitment
And my God will meet all your needs. - Phil. 4:19

Stewardship Sharing

The Stewardship/Annual Giving Workgroup wants to hear what stewardship means to you. Why do you give monetarily to First Pres? How and why do you give of your time and talent? Feel free to contact Lucie Audette or Gail Grady. We would be honored to hear from you.

Lucie Audette who chairs First Pres' 2016 Annual Giving workgroup shares her stewardship story:



"I learned to give when I was a girl growing up in a large French-Canadian family in Rhode Island. Looking back, we could be described as being part of the working poor, but every week Mom set aside a small amount to contribute to St. Cecilia, our parish church. It didn't matter if money was scarce, Mom put something in that weekly church budget envelope. So I was blessed to see that no matter what – our family made an offering to church.

I learned from my Dad why we should serve. Each fall our church did an every member canvas to raise the yearly budget. On the appointed day, volunteers would visit church families, drop off pledge materials, answer questions, and request that they join with them in making a commitment to the church. When my Dad was asked to be a volunteer canvasser, he always said Yes. Being kids, we were embarrassed to have our Dad going around asking our friends parents to support the church and we asked him why he had to do this. I still remember what my Dad told us – that it was a privilege to be serving God in this small way. All these years later, I treasure these gifts my parents gave me: faith, gratitude, and service."



Opportunities for Women

PW Awards Honorary Life Memberships

During the Presbyterian Women annual meeting on May 20 Honorary Life Memberships were awarded to Jill Binkley, Harriet Brouwer, and Lois Jelneck for the exceptional service they have given to God and to the church. In addition, the 2015-2016 PW officers were installed.



PW News:

- Join Martha Krehbiel and members of the PW Coordinating Team on June 11 at 9:30 a.m. to plan the programs for 2015-2016. If you have ideas for programs, please attend this meeting at the church or contact Martha.
- Regular third-Wednesday gatherings will resume in September.
- Thank you for your commitments to shop for Ingathering items over the summer. Contact Carole Hendrickson or Mary Smith if you have questions about the Ingathering – donations of various items by each of the churches in the Detroit Presbytery.
- PW members are encouraged to help when school supplies are sorted and packed at Ginny Rezmierski's home, June 25 - 27 (see page 8). Friday, June 26, PW will sort and pack school supplies for Second Mile Center of Detroit (SMCD).
- PW is grateful for the \$6000 grant from the Jeane Seeley Mission Fund. With these funds, PW will purchase supplies and make 300 hygiene kits for the Synod Mobile Health Fair held at SMCD on July 20. More on a date to make kits later. Jeane, a PW member in life, continues to bless us so we may bring hope to the SMCD community.



Adult Education

Sundays @ 9:30 A.M.

The Bible @ 9:30 - French Room/Library
Bible Exploration and Conversation

No Class on June 7 – Church Picnic

June 14 The Book of Genesis *Last Class of the Semester*

The class, led by Rev. Ed Koster, concludes the study of the first book in the Old Testament, Genesis.

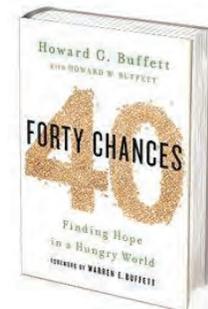
First Couples - Monteith Hall

This group offers spiritual growth, learning, fellowship, and support for couples and individuals

June 7

First Couples concludes its discussion of the book *Forty Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World* by Howard Buffet.

June 14 Planning Meeting



Sundays @ 11:00 A.M.

Common Ground and Exploring the Faith classes have ended for the semester. Adult learning classes resume this fall on Sunday, September 13.