

Good News Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church of Decatur

August 2015

Pastor's Pen:

I'd like to use this month's newsletter column to express heartfelt gratitude, from Sara and myself, to all who were present at our wedding in body and in spirit. For those who were unable to attend (and a reminder for those who were), instead of a 'traditional' entrance of the bride, processing down the aisle to Pachelbel's *Canon in D* with the entire gathered body rising and turning to face the bride, we did something a bit different. The entire wedding party entered, one at a time, down the two aisles at Stetson Chapel singing our processional hymn, *All Creatures of Our God and King*. With six full sung verses, we had ample time for everyone to process, with Sara walking down last, arriving at the chancel as the last verse was about to begin.

I bring this image up because it has been playing over and over in my mind throughout the last month. The opening hymn was an indescribable joy; a veritable mountaintop experience in a day filled with mountaintop experiences. To sing this beautiful and perfect hymn, my absolute favorite, on a beautiful and perfect day, all while looking out to see the faces of friends and family from all seasons of life was an experience too wonderful for words. Of course, to have those moments culminate with seeing Sara, for the first time that day, make her beautiful entrance, I was powerless to stop the tears of joy.

It is truly a humbling experience to be surrounded by such love: the faces and the smiles, the hugs and handshakes, the cards and the gifts. Never in my life have I felt such an outpouring of love and support. The experience has left me with a new understanding of the holiness of marriage. I see the holiness of marriage in new light because in the celebration of marriage, God's love is revealed and felt in a very real and tangible way. We get married and we go to weddings to celebrate a unique love and covenant between two people that mirrors the love and covenant that God gives to use each and every day of our lives. If we were to recognize each day God's love and covenant in such real and tangible ways, like me at the chancel, we would all be powerless to stop the tears of joy.

Friends, know that you are loved, and may we all follow our calling to share that love with others.

Rev. Will

Worship Volunteers

	Aug 2	Aug 9	Aug 16	Aug 23	Aug 30
GREETERS/ USHERS	Chuck & Pat Lori Jerue	Joel & Leonda Connie Johnson	David & Ruth Phyllis Graham	Don & Karolyn Vicky Burkett	Norris & Eleanor Shannon
LITURGIST	Mark	Bobbi Rex	Joan Grosvenor	Tom Kohl	Leonda
Acolyte	xxxx	Colby	Abby	Davis	Leah
NURSERY	Jon & Lori	Libby & Lori Jerue	Missy & Kennedy	Matt & Lisa	Don & Lynda

Servers for August 2nd Communion: *Chuck Cabbage, Judy Kish,
Elaine Hovenkamp, Doug Dorgan*

Social hour after 5th Sunday of Praise only: *Carrilou Gale, Eileen Thomas, Linda Newell,
Hilary Newell, Mavis Popp, and Mary Fosdick*

Worship Service Every Sunday at 10 a.m.
No Sunday School until September
Session Meets Monday, August 3rd 7:00 p.m.
Bible Class meets every Monday at 5:45 p.m.
EXCEPT August 31st!!!

Deacon of the Month Judy Kish 423-5731

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

3rd Doug Sikkema	18th Jesse Baushke
5th Brian & Laurie Southworth Anniversary	18th Blaine & Bobbie Rex Anniversary
6th Caraline Visuri	19th Brian Klimczak
9th Theresa Visuri	20th Burt Houtman
10th Tom & Brenda Visuri	
11th Dave McLeese	25th Shannon Allen
11th Liz Rutherford	25th Robert & Marcia Krueger
15th Matt Sikkema	27th Keith and Lauren
17th Brown & Joan Anniversary	30th Robert Hovenkamp
17th Don Drenth	31st Mark Johnson

Decatur Day

Come out and enjoy the fun for our participation in Decatur Day! Similar to last year, we will have big inflatable's for the kids, the extremely popular 'dunk-tank' (for kids and adventurous adults), hot dogs on the grill, and snow cones by the handful! Presbyterian Women are having a bake sale, also. Come enjoy a beautiful day, music provided by Dale Congdon, and great fellowship from 10:00-1:00. Help for setup and clean-up is much appreciated.

5th Sunday of Praise

We are the hosts this 5th Sunday. Remember the fun time we had at our last get-together? There will be refreshments afterwards, and Rev. Will said he will keep it to an hour time schedule.

Pop-Up Choir

One of the fun things we do in the summer is have the pop-up choir. This Sunday, and August 23rd, we will have brief rehearsal and then sing during the service. Please come to the church at 9:30 if you want to join us for the fun.

Open House Saturday, August 8th

In what they are dubbing "Reception: Take 2", the Reverends Will and Sara happily invite everyone to an open house at the manse, Saturday, August 8th. The manse is located at 400 West Edgar Bergen Boulevard, and the time is 12 to 4 p.m. Please come and enjoy food, drink, and fellowship provided by Sara, Will, and many generous members of the church.

Note from Phyllis

Dear Friends: Thank you so much for the wonderful cards, kind thoughts, and prayers, especially the prayers. It is comforting to know that not only are you gracious and kind to those whose situations are truly dire and more serious, but to those who get yanked off their feet by a dog, on a leash, and fall flat on their face. There, I said it, and it is truly embarrassing. So, thank you again, God Bless.....Sincerely, Phyllis Graham

Thank You

A big thank you to Shelly and Garry Krum for the lovely new carriage lights now on our church building. And, thanks to master electrician Cubbage for installing them. We are very lucky that we have parishioners who take such pride in our building, and help keep it looking so good. We miss Betty Vliek, but Connie McIntyre has stepped into her shoes and does a great job. I might add that I appreciate Joe Hill, our custodian, he has always been so helpful when I need extra help with setting up for funerals, etc. JMR

MDOT Trash Pick-Up

Huge thanks to those who came out to clean our section of M-51 for the July pick up. Luckily, the road was pretty clean and, for the most part, we were able to get away before a threatening storm came through. Our next pick-up will be at the end of September.

July Session Meeting

Report of Treasurer

- Mark Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report in absence of Fred Reeder.
 - Pledges received for the month of June was \$7,232.00. Loose Offerings consisted of \$960.00 for a total of \$8,192 in total pledges.
 - Total income was \$8,553.64; and expenditures were \$10,732.95.
 - In the comparison income statement with 2014, net income was \$3,763.59 less than the previous year; however, there was an additional Sunday (5) during the comparison time frame.

Endowment Committee

- On June 3rd, Rev. Christians and Chuck Cabbage met with Dr. Patrick Creagan, Superintendent of Decatur Public Schools. Decatur Public Schools will be the recipient of the first Endowment Investment payment. The purpose of this meeting was to determine alternatives to best implement these proceeds. The following ideas were considered top candidates:
 1. Enhance The Science Club.
 2. Design a program for students considered to be high risk for dropping out of school.
 - a. This program will assist students to acquire mechanical skills regarding assembling and disassembling various types of equipment.
 - b. These alternatives will be treated as Grant-like proposals.

Old Business

- The Decatur Days Celebration will happen on Saturday, August 1st. The church will be a prime contributor to this event, and sign-up sheets for volunteers are available.

Report Submitted by *Mark Johnson, Clerk of Session*

