

Good News Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church of Decatur

June/July 2015

Pastor's Pen:

This month will mark one of the most, if not *the* most, exciting events in my life. On Saturday, June 27 at 5:00 pm, before God and surrounded by family and friends, Sara Dorrien and I will become husband and wife. After five years of dating and one year of being engaged, that day has been a long awaited for both of us.

While our excitement for that day cannot be understated, neither can our stress. There was something about waking up on June 1st that brought that stress level to a whole new level. *This month! This month! This month! So many things still to do. So much yet to be planned! This month!* It amazes me that even after a year of planning and prepping, there is still so much to do.

Great words of comfort have been given to us through friends and families and mentors that “as long as the two of you are married at the end of the day, little else matters.” While the adage does not eliminate anything on the growing ‘to-do-list’, it is a truth that has helped us keep perspective. A Biblical connection to that adage comes in Jesus’ words from the Gospel of Matthew - “Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (6:34)

Life brings it’s own daily dose of stress and angst. Children can stress over simpler things like homework and upcoming tests, but can also be fraught with deeper stresses about friendships and family tensions. As adults, stress runs the gamut from finances, family relationships, health of self and loved ones, even world crises. Though usually seen in the negative, stress and worry do have a healthy place in life. Without stress and worry, nothing would ever get done. Stress and worry motivate us to make plans, achieve goals, improve our lives, and even make the world a better place.

As I remind myself daily, there is only so much that can be accomplished in one day, and what remains will just have to wait for tomorrow. In whatever season of life we find ourselves in now, may “the peace of God, that surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Blessings and Peace, *Rev. Will*

JUNE 2015

***7th** *Communion Sunday*

Greeters Burt & Gloria
 Marsha Kruger
Liturgist David Vliek
Nursery Missy & Kennedy

14th

Greeters Jack & Elaine
 Helyn Hiller
Liturgist Joel Shroyer
Acolyte Jesse Baushke
Nursery Judy & Charlene

21st

Greeters Randy & Carrilou
 Eileen Thomas
Liturgist Joe Leary
Acolyte Colby Spangler
Nursery Lori Jerue & Shannon

28th

Greeters David & Nancy
 Gloria Vliek
Liturgist Karen Makay
Acolyte Abby
Nursery Matt & Lisa

Communion Servers

*Leonda Shroyer, Jon Baushke,
Bobbie Rex, Joe Leary
Deacon of the month Lori Jerue*

JULY 2015

5th

Greeters Doug & Marcia
 Glen Pollock
Liturgist Blaine Rex
Acolyte Davis
Nursery Brenda & Theresa

12th

Greeters Connie & Mark
 Mary Fosdick
Liturgist Brown Grosvenor
Acolyte Leah Baushke
Nursery Don & Lynda

19th

Greeters Keith & Loretta
 Amy Druskovich
Liturgist Joe Leary
Acolyte Jackson
Nursery Laurie Southworth
 Judy Kish

26th

Greeters Blaine & Bobbie
 Dean Copping
Liturgist Mark Johnson
Acolyte Jesse Baushke
Nursery Joe & Tina

Deacon of the month Jan Roeder

Monthly Activities at First Presbyterian of Decatur

EVERY SUNDAY 10 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

SESSION MEETS 7 p.m.

JULY 13, 2015

BIBLE STUDY 5:45 p.m.

JUNE 8th, 15th & 22nd

JULY 13th, 20th & 27th

WHITE OAKS

July 12th

DECATUR DAYS

August 1st

We plan on having a bake sale along with all the other fun things.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

10th Opal & Gordy Anniversary

13th Glen Pollock

15th Jan Roeder

16th Leonda Shroyer

25th Chuck & Pat Anniversary

26th Blaine Rex (1920)

27th Doug Sikkema

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st Rev. Will

2nd Bradley & Hilary Newell

4th Tina & Joe Leary

6th Roxanne Lovell

14th Cecil Shank

16th Jack Hovenkamp

20th Connie Johnson

27th Katelin Makay

Lori Baushke

Eileen Thomas

Wedding

Everyone is joyfully invited to the wedding of Will Christians and Sara Dorrien!
The service will be held at Stetson Chapel on the campus of Kalamazoo College on
Saturday, June 27, 2015 at 5:00 pm.

Rev. Will on vacation

Rev. Will is out of the office from June 26 – July 5. Filling the pulpit both Sundays will be the Rev. Sarah Schmidt-Lee.

Highway Cleanup on M51

Our next MDOT Adopt-a-Highway cleanup will be on July 18! We will meet at the church at 9:30am. The Spring cleanup was a breeze, thanks in part to our continued effort at keeping M-51 beautiful. Let's keep it up!

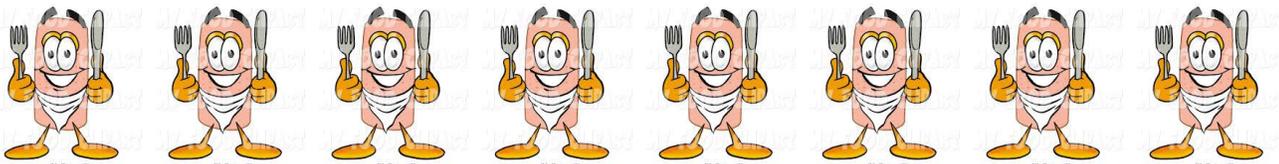
Exciting News regarding our Endowment Fund

We have received an offer to match any 2015 endowment contributions, dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$25,000. So whether you can set aside \$1 or more this is a great opportunity to help First Presbyterian Church of Decatur increase the size of the permanent Endowment Fund. We are focused on using the income from the Fund in ways that make a difference in the lives of people of our community. The Endowment Committee and Session have agreed that our first use of income from the Endowment should have an education focus. Rev. Christians and Dr. Cabbage met with Dr. Creagan, superintendent of DPS, to explore how our 2015 use of endowment income (and first) might involve Decatur Public Schools. Help us "pay it forward" by making a contribution to the First Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund. Just be sure to indicate "Endowment" on your contribution.

In faith and hope that our lives will be a blessing to others, Chair *Chuck Cabbage*,

July is Support Decatur Human Services Month!

With children not receiving school lunches and an influx of migrant families to area farms, there is a huge increase in need at Decatur Human Services. In conjunction with the DHS Board of Directors, First Presbyterian would like to make July the "Support DHS Month!" The Mission Committee and Session has approved a putting forth up to \$3,000 to be used in a matching-gift fundraising campaign. *The church will match all financial gifts specified to the 'Support DHS' matching campaign, up to \$3,000.* It is our hope that our giving can inspire many, many others to give as well.



Presbyterian Women

We meet at the Makay residence for our annual June potluck. We start at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 9th. Please bring a dish to pass, and your own table service. A short meeting will follow. These directions are from Karen: 37261 CR 669. Take George Street South, turn left on Prairie Ronde. Then either : Stay on Prairie Ronde, which changes into CR 352, and is VERY bumpy to CR 669, turn right. OR: Turn right on 41st, gravel road just past the old Ritchie Greenhouses, after 1/2 mile it will curve to the left, become 88th Avenue and become paved. Follow that to CR 669, turn right. After 88th Avenue, on the left will be a house, a vineyard, and then our driveway-paved. You can't see the house from the road. (Geez, I hope I make it...I might have to call 269-436 0150 for help) SEE YOU THERE...ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED...All women belong to the **Presbyterian**

Women whether they like it or not. 

Max Worthington Howe

Sadly we report the death of Max. Just about ten weeks ago Blanche died, also. He missed her so, and we know he is at peace now. Max's memorial service will be **Sunday, June 14th, 2:00 p.m. at the church.....**Both Howe's knew that: *Death is mild, death is sweet and gentle; it beckons to us with heavenly power, if only we realize that it is the gateway to our homeland, the tabernacle of joy, the everlasting kingdom of peace.* Bonhoeffer

Breakfast at the VFW

The VFW is serving breakfast every first Sunday of the month. They start serving at 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. , and have a varied menu It is \$6.00 per person. On Saturday it is Freddie Burger night and that has gotten very popular. We need to show our support to the VFW because we are so lucky to have such a nice facility in our little town.



Sunday School News

This Sunday, June 7th, is the last class til Fall, however we are planning several field trip/special activities for over the summer. Included in this is the popular free Kids' Carnival during Decatur Days. Also we hope to have the children practice bells as summer ends preparation for our church's 5th Sunday of Praise. Put August 30th on your calendar. We had a rockin' good time at the last one we did.



Christina Louise Hall

We would like to congratulate Christina on her graduation from Michigan State's College of Veterinary Medicine. We wish her God's blessings in finding that perfect place which will utilize her talents to the fullest.

Graduating Seniors

Congratulations also to Cole Southworth, son of members Laurie & Brian; and Jonathan Grosvenor, son of John & Pam. *What we are is God's gift to us, what we become is our gift to God.*

4th of July Chicken Dinner

Don't miss the annual 4th of July parade and chicken dinner afterwards. We need some pies so please help out if you can. Take them to the VFW Saturday morning..Thanks..Decatur Human Services.

Get Ready for Decatur Days!

Decatur Days is back again! Join First Presbyterian on August 1 from 10:00am-1:00pm for a wonderful 'Kid's Carnival'. We have reserved an Inflatable Castle, a Dino-Bouncer, Inflatable Dry Slide, and the hugely popular – Dunk Tank! We will need help with some help with set-up, keeping the hot dogs cooking, keeping the snow-cones messy, and the waters cold. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary come July. (Don't forget the bake sale also!!)

Report on Session Meeting in May

The church gained a net income of \$1,818.29 for the month of April.

A comparative analysis shows that the church has a gained a net income of \$2,495.46 when compared with last year's YTD Profit/Loss Report.

Fund Balances

Building Fund: \$7,409.50 Contingency Fund: \$603.91 Memorial Fund: \$23,118.03

Mission Fund: \$13,991.81 Organ/Piano Fund: \$304.55 Youth Ministry: \$365.91

Per Capita Fund: \$2,931.68 General Account: \$(12,874.38) Checking Account Balance: \$35,851.01

Personnel Committee

A personnel meeting with Linda Triemstra, our new organist/choir director, will be held before the June Session meeting.

Mission Committee

The committee is seeking new members.

Mark Johnson, Clerk of Session

Report on Session Meeting in June

Report of Treasurer

Pledges for the month of May equaled \$11,681.16. Total Expenditures equaled \$10,437.41. This provided a net gain of \$1,243.75 for the month.

Fund Balances

Building	\$7,409.50
Memorial	\$23,118.03
Mission	\$13,991.81
Organ/Piano	\$ 304.55
Per Capita	\$2,702.35

Contingency \$ 603.91

Youth \$ 365.91

A motion was moved to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and approved.

Report of Clerk

The Presbytery approved the 2014 Session meeting minutes at the Annual Minutes Review held at The First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo on Saturday May 9th.

Building and Grounds Committee

Three bids will be received for the removal of the remaining part of the tree that was blown down at the Manse during the Memorial Day weekend. The removal of the stump will also be included in this bid.

Memorial Committee

On November 1st, *All Saints Day*, flowers will be symbolically presented to the memories of those who have passed away during the year. This includes past members, elders, deacons, and individuals who have touched the church's mission in the service of Christ.

Mission Committee

The Pentecost Offering earned the Mission \$609.14. Of this amount \$243.66 (40%) will be retained locally. These funds will be donated to the Ladies Auxiliary in accordance with their project of providing school supplies for area foster children. A motion was moved to match dollar for dollar up to \$3,000.00 any contribution to Decatur Human Services for the summer months. The motion was seconded and approved.

Endowment Committee

Rev. Christians and Chuck Cabbage will meet with Dr. Patrick Creagan, Superintendent of Decatur Public Schools, on Wednesday, June 3rd to discuss how to best use the first investment installment of the Endowment Fund donated to the Decatur school system.

Report Submitted by

Mark Johnson

Mark Johnson

Clerk of Session

