

Good News Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church of Decatur

May 2015

Pastor's Pen: I've got to admit, I'm pretty excited about two things going on in the life of the church right now. The first is our new volunteer partnership with Decatur Head Start. Though it is still in the seedling stage, and at this point won't really be taking root until the fall, I rejoice in this wonderful opportunity to make a committed difference in the lives of pre-schoolers in the community. The early educational and emotional development for young children is the greatest key to long-term success in life. As a community of faith, there is no greater opportunity than this to share the love we have received from God and the hope we know through Jesus Christ. Just a bit about the program begun by in 1965 under President Lyndon Johnson.

“Head Start promotes the school readiness of young children from low- income families through agencies in their local community. Head Start and Early Head Start programs support the mental, social, and emotional development of children from birth to age 5. In addition to education services, programs provide children and their families with health, nutrition, social, and other services.”

As this partnership continues to grow, I sincerely hope that you will consider spending an hour a week, or an hour here and there, encouraging the most vulnerable children among us to dream for a brighter future.

The second initiative that I'm continually thrilled about is our Endowment Fund. This fund is growing past it's seedling stage, but still needs all the support and effort it can get. Again, much like the Head Start partnership, we won't quite see the first blossom until the fall. Our current plan is to take the investment income from the first three-quarters of 2015 and donate it entirely to Decatur Public Schools. With the advice of Superintendent Patrick Creagan, we hope to discover an area of the school in which the funds can be used to the greatest benefit of the students. The Endowment Fund is a new and wonderful tool for our church to share our worldly blessings in a manner that extends in perpetuity. Like the Head Start partnership, I hope you will join in whatever way you can in ensuring it's ability to grow and thrive.

Blessings and Peace,

Rev. Will

Worship Volunteers

	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
GREETERS/ USHERS	Don & Karolyn Mary Fosdick	Brown & Joan John Grosvenor	Gale & Josie Phyllis Graham	Keith & Loretta Doug Dorgan	Terry & Linda Shannon
LITURGIST	Don Newton	Tom Kohl	Joan Grosvenor	Phyllis Graham	Bobbi Rex
Acolyte	Abby	Davis	Aaron	Leah	Jackson
NURSERY	Charlene & Judy	Jon & Lori	Kennedy &Lori Jerue	Brenda & Theresa	Joe & Tina

Deacon of the Month *Carrilou Gale*

3rd	Sunday	10 a.m.	Worship	9 a.m. Sunday School
		2:30 p.m.	Service at White Oaks	
		3 p.m.	Sister to Sister Harp concert at the VFW	
4th	Monday	5:45 pm.	Bible Study	
		7 p.m.	Session Meets	
8th	Friday	4:30 pm.	Pasta Dinner at Holy Family for Soup Supper	
10th	Sunday	10 a.m.	Worship	9 a.m. Sunday School
			HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY	
11th	Monday	NO BIBLE STUDY		
17TH	Sunday	10 a.m.	Worship	9 a.m. Sunday School
		7 p.m.	Baccalaureate Service at the Decatur High School	
18th	Monday	NO BIBLE STUDY		
24th	Sunday	10 a.m.	Worship	9 a.m. Sunday School
25th	MEMORIAL DAY			
		NO BIBLE STUDY.		
31st	Sunday	10 a.m.	Worship	9 a.m. Sunday School
		3 p.m.	5th Sunday of Praise at <u>First Baptist</u>....please try and attend, they are always so enthusiastic and are having an ice cream social afterwards.....	

Social Hour after church the 31st: *Carrilou Gale, Eileen Thomas, Linda Newell, Hilary Newell, Mavis Popp, and Mary Fosdick*

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

3rd Virginia Vliek

5th Donna Klimczak

20th Burt & Gloria Anniversary

25th Karen Makay

27th Mary Fosdick

Colby Spangler

29th Marcia Sikkema

30th Keith Leighton

Soup Supper hosted on Friday, April 24th

We had about 114 people attend the soup supper hosted by us this month. The soups were SO good, as was the salad bar, and desserts. I was disappointed with the turn-out however, it is always the same people doing the work, and we need "new blood". Our numbers have declined in the attendance over the years, and so have all the other groups participating. Holy Family is doing their Pasta Dinner on May 8th, and although I wish we would beat them, of course, I want everyone to go and support it. The cause is Decatur Human Services....*People Helping People*.
jmr

Highway Cleanup on M51

Ten volunteers worked on the clean-up. Spring brings more trash after the long winter, and there were 22 bags gathered. The volunteers heard "Thank You" from passing cars and residents along the highway, and one resident came out and offered water to the workers. Our efforts are noticed in the community, and appreciated.

Report on Session Meeting in April

Pastor's Report

Pastoral Visits: Max Howe and family, Sandi Christensen and family, the family of Virginia Miller, and Cecil Shank.

Funerals: Virginia Miller (of Paw Paw) March 12th, Blanche Howe (Member # 324), March 22nd, and Louise Rotach, April 3rd.

Church Events/Initiatives: MDOT Trash pick-up is scheduled for April 11th.

Vacation Request: A motion was moved to approve Rev. Christian's vacation request for the week of May 18th-21st. The motion was seconded and approved.

Presbytery Meeting: Amy Druskovich has tentatively agreed to assume the commissioner's role for the April 14th Presbytery Meeting. In the event she cannot attend, Leonda Shroyer will serve as alternate. A motion was moved and seconded for this action. Motion approved.

Community Involvement: Rev. Christians gave a presentation to the Decatur Study Club on March 5th. The presentation outlined his visit to Israel and Palestine.

The Maundy Thursday service was held on April 2nd in which 40 people were in attendance. The Good Friday service convened at The First Presbyterian Church in Paw Paw.

Stewardship and Finance Committee

The quarterly budget analysis finds that the church has a favorable variance of just over \$3,000. Meaning the church has spent fewer funds than anticipated at this point of the fiscal year. The reason for this favorable result is due to the organist/choir director vacancy. Guest organist costs are considerably less than our former organist/choir director's salary.

Building and Grounds Committee

Joel Shroyer and Paul Makay will repair the exterior side and front doors of the church. This action will initiate a cost savings of \$5,469.00, which was the initial bid submitted by the outside contractor.

Personnel Committee

The Committee will meet with Linda Triemstra and discuss the compensation package and expectations of her employment as the church's new Organist/Choir Director.

Mission Committee

One Great Hour offering was \$486.00

Membership Committee

A meeting will be scheduled to discuss the membership rolls and potential new members.

Christian Education and Youth Committee

Planning for youth confirmation classes is beginning. There is a possibility that these classes will be combined with youth from The Paw Paw First Presbyterian Church.

The Bounce, a Presbytery Event, is scheduled for April 18th. At this time, five youth members will attend.

Audit Committee

No Report

Endowment Committee

\$6,000 was recently been deposited into the Fund.

Old Business

A volunteer list will be completed by mid-April regarding the Decatur Head Start project.

New Business

The church Summer Festival will be scheduled for the first Saturday in August. The activities will include: Dunk Tank, Bounce House, Slide, Bake Sale, Hot Dogs and the popular snow-cone machine by Gales.

Mark Johnson, Clerk of Session