

Good News Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church of Decatur

NOVEMBER 2015

Pastor's Pen:

On November 1, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, and remember those friends and loved ones of the church that have passed away in the past few years. I say the past few years instead of the past year because, regrettably, it has been a while, since this community of faith has observed such a celebration and remembrance. In past years, this service of remembrance has occurred the Sunday before Memorial Day. An appropriate alternative within the church calendar for a service of remembrance is All Saints Day.

From The Companion to the Book of Common Worship:

"All Saint's Day is a time to rejoice in all who through the ages have faithfully served the Lord. The day reminds us that we are part of one continuing, living communion of saints. It is a time to claim our kinship with the "glorious company of apostles, prophets, and martyrs." It is a time to express our gratitude for all who in ages of darkness kept the faith, for those who have taken the gospel to the ends of the earth, for prophetic voices who have called the church to be faithful in life and service, for all who have witnessed to God's justice and peace in every nation. Reminded that God was with the faithful of the past, we are reassured that God is with us today, moving us and all creation towards God's end in time."

This All Saints Sunday, we will rejoice and give thanks to God for the saints throughout the ages and the saints from our community who have joined the 'great cloud of witnesses'. We will remember the pain that we all endured at their loss and the grief that death brings upon us. We will also remember, and here particularly rejoice, in the full life with God now lived by those who have died.

The names of loved ones being read on Sunday are: Sherri Pollock, Irene Calbetzor, Betty Bates Claborn, Forrest Hurst, Richard Shroyer, Mary Lou Shroyer, Leslie Jean Abshagen Heckman, Donald Stepnitz, Joel Pierce, Janice Pollock, Mary Eusebia Hovenkamp, Eloise Abbott, Betty Vliek, Lorraine Ann Clotfelter, Carole Lee Dorgan, Dorie Lou Knoll, Donald Roehm, Jay Vliek, Mary Lee Hinderliter, Blanche Howe, Max Howe, Stanley Stepnitz.

Blessings and Peace,

Rev. Will

Worship Volunteers for the Month of November

	Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29
GREETERS/ USHERS	Matt, Lisa, Jackson	Jon, Lori & Family	Brian, Missy & Family	Gordy & Opal Lori Jerue	Connie Johnson Jan Roeder & Dean Copping
LITURGIST	Joe Leary	Blaine Rex	Bobbie Rex	Joan Grosvenor	Amy Druskovich
Acolyte	Aaron	Leah	Jackson	Jesse	Colby
NURSERY	Keith & Lauren	Joe & Tina	Judy Kish Laurie Southworth	Don & Lynda	Lori Jerue Charleen Krikke

Please everyone.....  at the above, and if you see that you cannot serve the particular Sunday call Judy (423-5731) so she can reschedule someone else so Patsy can get it into the bulletin correctly. Thanks.

Deacon for the Month of November *Brian Klimczak*

Schedule for the Month of November *(Please put these dates on your home Calendar)*

10 a.m. Service Every Sunday

9 a.m. Sunday School Every Sunday

5:45 p.m. Bible Study Every Monday Evening

NOVEMBER 1	PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO 'FALL' BACK ONE HOUR
2nd	7 p.m. Session meets
3rd	VOTE
8th	ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER SERVICE
25th	THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE 7 P.M. FIRST REFORMED
28th	CRAFT FAIR.....Remember to sell your tickets & bring baked goods

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

7th Judy Kish
Mark High

15th Ruth McLeese

14th John Krohn

18th Vicky Burkett

21st Bobbie Rex

Endowment Fund News

Roughly a year ago, the congregation took a leap in creating a perpetually sustained endowment fund. Thanks in large part to seed money given by Pat and Chuck Cabbage, along with donations from many others, our endowment fund was opened through the Presbyterian Foundation. Now, after three quarters of growth in 2015, we are ready to make our first annual offering of our investment income.

This year \$1,000 will be granted to Decatur Public Schools with the purpose of assisting two programs: Science Olympiad and an Alternative, Hands-On Education Program for at risk students. Both will receive \$500 First Presbyterian Church of Decatur endowment income and other monies.

Both programs offer opportunities to create caring relationships between and among teachers and students. Each provides students with challenges, prepares them for dealing with obstacles, and supports them as they happen. Student's participation, in part, is self-selected. That, in itself, says the students have, among other things, an expectation of achievement and creates a positive shift in the nature of the relationship between the teacher and the student.

In our culture, we are bombarded by media intentionally creating sensational portrayals of exceptionalism as normal, desirable, and attainable, creating unrealistic career and personal goals. Both programs provide the students (and teachers) with reachable, satisfying goals; outcomes that are the result of planning, collaboration, and cooperation. Result, "Wow, I look forward to going to school today!"

The teacher's task is to offer realistic, hopeful pathways. Few of us reach goals on our own. Students need adult help to create realistic pathways, ideally with guardrails. We all are likely to move ahead when we know there is a path. A teacher's role includes helping to identify: the road map, potential problems, and even "side trips" any project may include.

Both of these DHS programs lead students to a feeling of being engaged. It happens when kids are engaged in a setting or group where they have opportunities to receive positive recognition and make positive contributions. It happens when they can spend time in environments in which teamwork is encourage, and they can get help learning new skills that they find valuable and helpful in their lives. Engaging settings in the school and the community often have logos, mottos, missions, and other tangible expressions that allow students to experience a sense of belonging and pride.

We are pleased to have drawn on an article by Prof. Maurice Elias, Director of the Collaborative Center For Community-Based Research and Service, Rutgers University, Jan 22, 2009.

- Your Endowment Committee -



Thank You A very warm thank-you to all our church family who called sent cards, and said prayers for me during my stay in the hospital, and since returning home. I know it helped for a good recovery.....Bless you all, *Loretta*



A Word from Linda

Pop-up choir will sing November 15th and 29th (Which is the first Sunday in Advent.) Rehearsal for the hymn is at 9:30 Sunday morning, before the service.

Bell practice has begun and will continue until each member is confident in his/her ability for our first and ONLY performance as the 1st Presbyterian Ding-a-lingers!!!



Presbyterian Women

This meeting Tuesday, November 10th, will be hosted by Karen Makay and Bobbie Rex. This will be the Thank Offering Service. The Thank Offering has long been a tradition of Presbyterian Women. It has provided and continues to provide much-needed assistance to numerous worthwhile programs not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. Please plan on attending as we will be discussing some important issues that we will have to make some decisions on for the future of our church.



Annual Congregational Meeting

Please stay after the church service for the meeting. You can attend whether you are a member or not....but why not be a member so you too can vote. After the meeting we will have a potluck. The men will provide the meat for the dinner...we need to bring sides, salads and desserts.



Church Clean-Up, Fix-Up Day

Special thanks to all those who lent their time and energy last month to tidy up inside and outside of the building. Our kitchen is immaculate, the sanctuary is fresh and clean, and the PW closet is no longer a hazard to enter! Thanks you all!

Report on Session Meeting in October

Report of Treasurer

The report for the month of September outlined Revenue Less Expenditures of \$205.91.

General Fund	\$(2,530.17)
Building Fund	\$7,409.50
Memorial Fund	\$23,392.77
Mission Fund	\$11,176.69
Organ/Piano Fund	\$304.55
Per Capita Fund	\$2,677.07
Contingency Fund	\$603.91
Youth Fund	<u>\$365.91</u>
Total	<u>\$43,399.23</u>

Receiving New Members

Presentation of New Members

- Don and Carolyn Reits
- Dan and Brandi West
 - Megan Hall, Aaron West, Alex West, Christopher West (children and Baptized members).
- Randy and Dawn Vanderploeg

The new members introduced themselves and expressed their reasons for joining our congregation. A motion was moved to embrace the membership of Don and Carolyn, Dan and Brandi, and Randy and Dawn. Also approved was the baptism of Christopher West, to be performed at a date to be determined, and the Baptism membership of Megan, Aaron, and Alex. The motion was seconded and approved.

Pastor's Report

Rev. Will requests vacation for the Thanksgiving holiday to be with family. Pulpit supply will be arranged for Sunday, November 22nd.

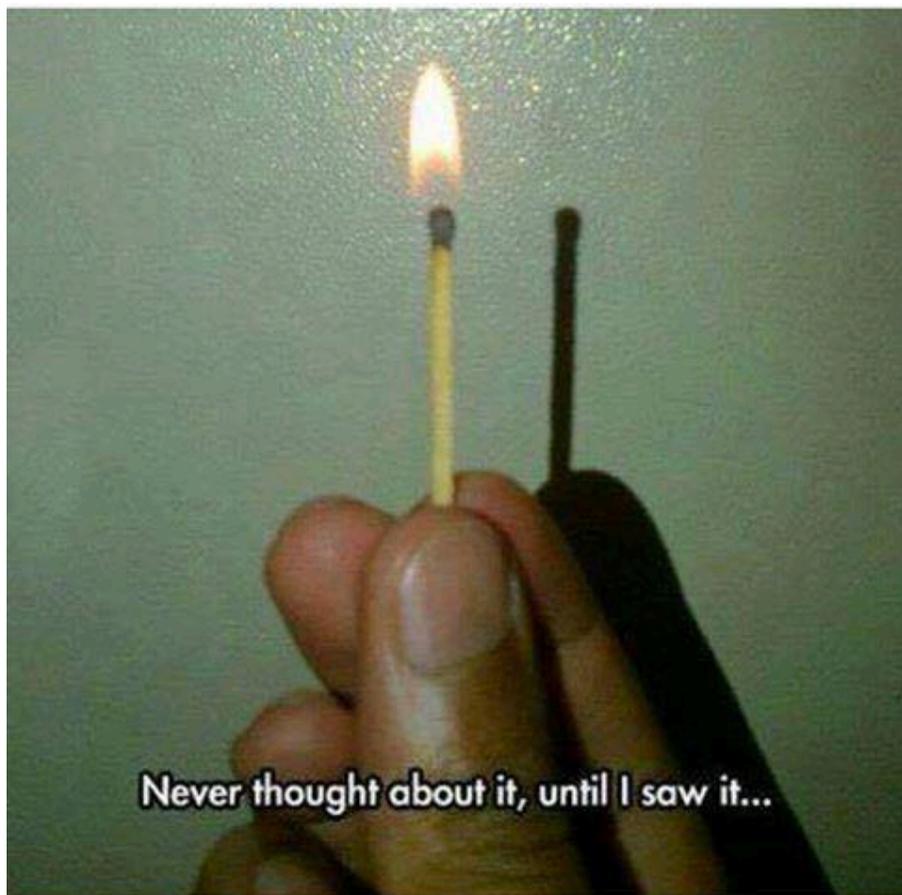
Personnel Committee

The search continues for a choir director. The job description has been released to several publications.

Mission Committee

The use of the 25% local portion of the Pentecost Offering will be determined at a future date. The next Session Meeting will occur at the church on November 2nd, 7:00 P.M. A motion was moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was supported and approved. The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:30 P.M.

Mark Johnson, Clerk of Session



Light has no shadow!! The Bible says, "God is light, in Him there is no darkness at all". John 1:5