

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, Ind. 46544

First Presbyterian News

February 2015

Volume 53 No. 6

Pastor's Column

On Christmas Eve I quoted from one of Anne Lamott's books. A young single mother living on the ragged edge of life, Anne had a life-changing encounter with the love of Jesus through a small inner-city Presbyterian church in San Francisco. That encounter, movingly described in her 2000 book, *Traveling Mercies*, set her on a spiritual journey that she recounts in several subsequent books with wisdom, wry humor, and unsparing honesty.

I was delightfully surprised to find one of her blog posts reprinted in the December issue of the AARP Magazine (could Anne Lamott really be part of AARP?). I would like to share with you some of the gems from it:

The theologian Paul Tillich famously said that the opposite of faith is not doubt but certainty. And I can vouch for that—I think. Getting older has given me more comfort in not knowing the answers. I throw up my hands more often now; I shake my head in wonder at how inscrutable life is. ... The God of the Old Testament says, “Be still, and know that I am God,” i.e., “Put a sock in it—you are in charge of very little. You could help the dogs at mealtime, as they have no opposable thumbs. But you’re going to have to trust me with the big things.”

Sometimes faith looks like myopia: I don't see everyone's faults so clearly as I used to, let alone my own. The God of my later years is not interested in my pores, or cellulite, and hopes that I will stop noticing yours. My vision has blessedly blurred. This is a great advantage when you're trying to live more spiritually, more expansively, more like Zorba the Greek and less like the Church Lady. For instance, when I sit on my bed now writing on my iPad, the top roll of tummy sometimes creeps over onto the screen and starts typing away. In the old days, upon noticing this unsought collaboration, I would have decided to start a new diet, or to end it all. Now I think, “Who knows? Maybe it's got something interesting to add.”

I finally have faith that no matter what happens to me, I will never be beyond help, because I have seen parents, friends and acquaintances live with catastrophe and illness. They were beautifully cared for by those who most loved them. Twenty-nine years in a tiny church has proved to me that when two or more are gathered who believe in Goodness, they will take care of those in their community who are suffering, scared, lonely. ... I've learned that, unless we're all swept away by hot lava, as my grandson frequently imagines, we can bank on this. Graciousness almost always bats last.

The psalmist (90:12) asks God to teach us to number our days so that we may gain a wise heart. As I look around the church, I notice a number of folks who, like me, have some mileage on them. Though, interestingly, our current session is almost entirely below retirement age. I hope and pray that as we all age, we may gain the kind of wisdom, compassion, humor, and faith that Anne Lamott demonstrates. Indeed God, and graciousness, bats last.

Prayer Group Meets to unite in prayer weekly. Requests for prayers can be made to Janet Freeman.
jfree930@aol.com

SESSION NEWS

Pam Camren, Clerk of Session 2014

As newly installed Elders and Deacons begin their work in the new year, please hold them in your prayers in this exciting time of transition for FPC. New Ruling Elders are Judy Green, Worship and Music; Ron May, Finance; and Angela Bellinger, Mission. They join Bruce McClure, Personnel; Darlene Seufert, Christian Education and John Martz, Facilities and Operations. Of course, Pastor Steve will be moderating the Session through his June 30 contract term. Treasurer, John Rice and Clerk of Session, Teresa Primmer were elected at the January 11th Stated Meeting. Retiring Ruling Elders, Stan May, Mary Ann Dentino and Pam Camren were thanked for their service at the December meeting of Session.

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) will report to the Session regularly and they also need our prayer support along with our presbytery Committee on Ministry Transitional Care Consultant, Teaching Elder, Rev. Anna Parkinson, as they work through the very thorough Presbyterian process of choosing/ electing new pastoral leadership for FPC.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, January 25th immediately after worship for the purpose of reviewing and approving annual reports of the various committees and organizations of the congregation. The 2015 budget will also be presented for acceptance after Session has adopted it.

February 1**HELP FILL THE KETTLE****February 1**

Help fill the soup kettles found around the church on Super Bowl Sunday. All food items will be taken to Albright Food Pantry. All items to make soup or cans of soup are welcome. The following items will help you while shopping:

Chicken or beef broth	any type of pasta	rice, all kinds	Noodles
canned vegetables	kidney or red beans	barley or potatoes	ready made soup
or a donation for MAC's use			

Let's make the kettles overflow!**Adult Class**

The Sunday morning adult class will continue viewing the thought-provoking video series *First Light: Jesus & the Kingdom*, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. The class meets after worship in the Meeting Room, with Pastor Steve Braden, or a member of the class, leading the discussion. Grab some coffee and refreshments and join us. The upcoming schedule:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Other:</u>
1-Feb	<i>Collaborative Eschaton</i>	
8-Feb	No class	Session
15-Feb	<i>The Lake as the World</i>	Steve gone; Don Neely preaching
22-Feb	<i>Parables as Lures</i>	Lent 1
1-Mar	<i>Jesus as Lord</i>	Lent 2

News from Presbyterian Women

Bible Study-Lesson Six of *Reconciling Paul-A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians*, is titled "The Aroma of God Among Us". The Bible passages are 2 Corinthians 2:14-17 and 6:14-7:1. In these passage Paul uses Epiphany processions as a metaphor to emphasis the importance for all Christians to show their faith. Remember all women of the church are a part of Presbyterian Women and invited to join a Circle for Bible Study. - - Darlene.

Dates to Remember: February 1 - PWCT noon

March 14 - Joint Circle Meeting and Bible Study PWCT-9 am

Brunch 10:00 am Bible Study and Election of Officers

April 12th - Gifts of Women Sunday Honorary Membership Birthday Offering

April 19-22 - Set for basement sale **April 24 - Basement Sale** April 25 - Bag Sale and Clean up

Time to start clearing out your closets and drawers! Set up and work will begin after Fellowship on the 19th We accept clean clothes, household items, children & baby and collectables but NOT computers or big electrical items. Please see the PW board for more details. So would you like to help?





WEDDING MINISTRY NEWS

Our efforts to share our beautiful sanctuary for non-member weddings (and raise some funds, of course) is moving right along. Brochures are ready for distribution and we will be hosting a booth at The Bridal Expo at Notre Dame on Saturday, February 7, 2015. We are hoping that the introduction of First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka as the perfect setting for saying "I Do" will generate lots of interest and bookings. Pam Martz and Pam Camren are getting the show displays ready to go and will be distributing brochures to area businesses that provide wedding related services in hopes of spreading the word about our availability to host weddings. Please keep this outreach ministry in your prayers

Ash Wednesday, February 18 The service will be at 6:30 pm in the chapel of Memorial Lounge, and similar to last year's. There will be a Lenten daily devotional book, *Draw Near* for congregational members to use during this time of prayer and journey through the Psalms preparing us Easter. Please, only one devotional per household, and the price is \$1.00. For more information contact Judy Green.

Book Club's next meeting will be on the 15th at 2 pm and the meeting will last about an hour or so. We will be talking about Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand. You may see the movie, but the book offers so many more details and insights. Dyan Phillips will lead. Join us, there is always room for one more. You can contact Judy, organizer, at mtcgjag@aol.com or check out the information board in the foyer.

Thank you.

3/15 All the Light We Can Not See by Anthony Doerr,
leader; Darlene Seufert host; Dyan Phillips

Up coming book possibilities: **Sea Change by Karen White**

The Blood Flowers

Cuckoo's Calling by J. K. Rowling

The Girl in the Photograph: The Story of Kim Phuc

SCRAPBOOKING CLUB

Join us for some fellowship and fun at our Scrapbooking/Crafting Group! We meet in the Fellowship Hall and the cost is \$5. Set-up, clean-up, drinks, and tableware are provided. Sharing snacks & ideas with each other and catching up on all the things happening in our lives makes this evening go very quickly. Feel free to bring any type of project that you have to work on. And remember, we meet from **6pm to 11pm**.

2015 DATES

February 27th **March 27th** **April 24th** **May 29th** **June 26th** **No July**
August 28th **September 25th** **October 23rd** **November 20th** **No December**


I look forward to seeing you there, Brittany Rice scrap.brittany@comcast.net

Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School

February will be full with...a post office visit, then the making of box to collect Valentines from friends in class. Red, white and how putting the two together makes pink! (Plus other color combinations.) Hearts & cupids, chocolate and other candies plus a party to celebrate the holiday. Presidents and other world leaders will fill out the month. Jayne Wurz

CHURCH STAFF
Transitional Pastor
Steve Braden
 revsbb91@gmail.com
Church Secretary
Debra Leonard
 Debrafcpmishawaka@gmail.com
Financial Secretary
Joan Horvath
 Joanfcpmishawaka@gmail.com
 Organist Michael Duryea
 mduryea@nd.edu
Custodian Ken Vargo

Pastor hours: varied, please check Sunday Bulletin, or call for appointment
 Secretary hours: 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
 Financial Secretary hours: Monday & Thursday 8 —11:30 a.m.
 Contact us at (574) 259-7874 or fcpmishawaka@gmail.com


 mail address: First Presbyterian Church-Mishawaka
 P.O. Box 744
 Mishawaka, Indiana 46546-0744

Newsletter deadline is February 17 at noon. Please send information for February newsletter to Sue Rice at suce@aol.com or mail information to Debra, the church secretary.



Church Officers and Committees
Session: Angela Bellinger, Judy Green, John Martz, Ron May, Bruce McClure, Darlene Seufert
Board of Deacons: Bill Bellairs, Tom Camren, Lynett Heritz, Carole Polk, Bill Walter, Chris Wukovits
Facilities and Operations
 John Martz, chair (elder)
 Ethan DeMaegd, Dick Dentino, Chuck Wukovits
Book Club: Judy Green
Clerk of Session: Teresa Primmer
Christian Education: Darlene Seufert
Finance: Ron May, Chair
Mission and Evangelism:
 Angela Bellinger, Chair
Nominating: Dave Sulak, Chair/Elder
Personnel: Bruce McClure, Chair
Prayer Chain: Lynett Heritz
Presbyterian Women: Darlene Siefert and Teresa Primmer
PWNS Board: John Rice, Chair
Scrap Booking: Brittany Rice
Special Gifts: Sue Rice, acting chair
Stewardship: Ron May, Chair
Treasurer: John Rice
Worship and Music:
 Judy Green, Chair

At this time of year most of us take clean dry socks for granted but not everyone has them. Beginning in February the mission committee will be collecting new and gently used socks in all sizes to be given to the Broadway Christian Parish. They serve breakfast to over 100 people daily and most of the people need clean dry socks, so lets all put our best foot forward and help to keep feet warm this winter. There will be a laundry basket in the foyer beginning the first part of February to collect them. This will continue until the end of the month so we hope everyone can help us reach our goal of over 100 pairs of socks.

The Mission Committee

The mission committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous giving to the Joy offering this year. The total was \$904.




Deacon Christmas Shopping... Thanks to everyone who came out to help shop on the 13th of December. We would also like to thank J. C. Penneys for working with us and the discounts they provided. We shopped for 50 children and purchased \$100 worth of clothing for each child; spending \$3,825.90. We currently have \$129.03 as start-up monies for December 2015 shopping. Please remember the Deacon's Christmas Fund throughout the year.

One Body, One Spirit is the theme for the 2015 *Church Wide Gathering* in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 18-21, 2015. The good news is that Minneapolis is close enough to drive, the better news is this Gathering will be much more affordable. Registration opens January 15, 2015. For more information log onto www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering for more information.





February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>1</i></p> <p>Greeters: Chris & Chuck Wukovits ushers: Ethan D. & Dan B. W. Leader: Chuck W. communion PWCT noon</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> 	<p><i>3</i></p>	<p><i>4</i></p>	<p><i>5</i></p>	<p><i>6</i></p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p><i>Tai Chi classes</i> <i>9:30/10:30</i> <i>Arthritis</i> <i>10:45/11:45</i> <i>32 sword</i> <i>noon/1 Sun 73</i></p>
<p><i>8</i></p> <p>Greeter Green Family ushers: Carole P. & Bill B. W. Leader: Pam C. Session</p>	<p><i>9</i></p>	<p><i>10</i></p>	<p><i>11</i></p>	<p><i>12</i></p>	<p><i>13</i></p>	<p><i>14</i></p> 
<p><i>15</i></p> <p>Greeter: Esther M. ushers: Michael & Mikey G. W. Leader: Judy S. Don Neely preaching Book club 2pm</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p><i>Elizabeth</i> <i>Circle 7 pm</i></p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p><i>Newsletter</i> <i>deadline</i></p>	<p><i>18</i></p>  <p><i>Ash</i> <i>Wednesday</i> <i>6:30 pm</i></p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p><i>Ruth</i> <i>Circle</i> <i>7 pm</i></p>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p><i>Esther</i> <i>Circle</i> <i>1:30 pm</i></p>	<p><i>21</i></p> <p><i>Tai Chi classes</i> <i>9:30/10:30</i> <i>Arthritis</i> <i>10:45/11:45</i> <i>32 sword</i> <i>noon/1 Sun 73</i></p>
<p><i>22</i></p> <p>Greeter: Esther M. Ushers: Dick D. & Janet F. W. Leader: Bruce Mc.</p>	<p><i>23</i></p>	<p><i>24</i></p>	<p><i>25</i></p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i></p> <p><i>Scrapbook-</i> <i>ing Club</i> <i>6 to 11 p.m.</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p><i>Tai Chi classes</i> <i>9:30/10:30</i> <i>Arthritis</i> <i>10:45/11:45</i> <i>32 sword</i> <i>noon/1 Sun 73</i></p>
<p>March 1</p> <p>Greeter: Bill B. Ushers: Ethan & Dan W. Leader: Judy G. communion</p>	<p>***** * * * * * * * * * *****</p> <p>Flower Fund provides flowers every week in the Sanctuary. Contact Church Secretary, Debra, if you would like to donate to fund.</p> <p>***** * * * * * * * * * *****</p>					

Did you know that the new hymnal GLORY TO GOD has a special note at the bottom of each page about the hymn; some background information, how some of them use the same tune but different words and other interesting information. Claudia Riggs has enjoyed these additional notes and thought some of the FPC members would also. For example “both the words and music of this prayer-song were written by a Presbyterian minister in 1926...” Spirit of the Living God #288