

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, Ind. 46544

First Presbyterian News

August 2015

Volume 54 No. 1

The following is a brief synopsis of a meeting held back in June. We, First Presbyterian Church, did not have a member at the meeting due to schedule conflict but will in September. Please talk with a Session member if you have ideas or concerns OR are willing to be part of the group.

More information to follow

Michiana Presbyterian Sessions Gathering

On Sunday June 28 members of the sessions of the local Presbyterian churches in St. Joseph County met at Sunnyside Presbyterian Church. We were gathered at the invitation of the Revs. Jamie Miller and Dedie Kelso, who were interested in all of us looking at the future of the Presbyterian Church in St. Joseph County. But most of all we gathered so that we could get to know our fellow Presbyterians.

Members met for conversation and a light dinner. We started with Bible Study on Acts 2, and continued with general questions around tables designed to help us get to know one another, and then discussed our concerns and hopes for our individual congregations. It was clear that we are all struggling with common issues related to membership and the health of our churches.

The Rev. Miller then shared some statistics about church attendance across a ten year span within the Presbyterian congregations in St. Joseph County, and across PC(USA). The Rev. David Lawrence then shared an intriguing trailer for a film called *When God Left The Building*. This call to remember that we need to be agile and willing to change in order to grow in God's work was both sobering and exciting. As the evening drew to a close we talked about what we can do now. The Rev. Lawrence reminded us all that we are called to pray and asked us all to not only hold up our own church families but also all of our fellow churches in our prayers; that we pray to better understand our role as the hands and feet of Christ, that we support our fellow Presbyterians in their efforts as well, and that we pray for the courage and insight to strengthen our denomination and with it our congregations.

We also want to do better about knowing one another. This short message is part of that process; we want to regularly publish a common article in all of our respective newsletters. We need to do a better job of sharing our activities beyond our own church home. We are going to share contacts across the lay leadership of the congregations to facilitate this communication. We would like to plan more joint worship opportunities, begin pulpit exchanges and meet again in September to further the conversation. All small steps designed to help us get to know each other better.

The Rev. Kelso then closed our meeting with prayer, with thanksgiving for new friends and partners in faith and with a petition for support in our understanding of and growth in our mission in Christ. As we cleaned up it was gratifying to me to see the new friendships between congregations, as well as old friends newly acquainted, playing out in casual conversation amidst shared labor. I left with the realization that I wanted to do this again, the sooner the better.

Kevin Dreyer, Elder

First Presbyterian Church of South Bend

Join the fellowship & faith at an outside worship at church on August 23rd, 10am in the church parking lot.

PNC Update....

The PNC continues to search for a part-time Pastor. We were hopeful, but God must have other plans for us. Please continue to keep the PNC and FPC in your prayers as we continue our work.

The following is a blog post from Ben Gosden that I felt spoke First Presbyterian Church-Mishawaka language. We are a strong church, we are a caring church, a giving church, a small church. Sue

The flip side of the “bigger is always better” way of viewing our churches is the reality that the vast majority of churches in America (and even around the world) are, in fact, small. Historically this has also been the case. Go back and read Paul’s letters to various churches. They weren’t worshipping 1,000+ on Sundays in a concert hall or amphitheater — they were small, tightly-knit communities worshipping in homes.

Now, I’m not a hater of the large church — I’ve actually served in two different large, vibrant, downtown churches. I know the strength of larger churches from their ability to support more diverse ministry to the beauty of worshipping with a large, corporate body. But now that I’m serving a smaller church, I want to point out the unique beauty of small churches. Sometimes we need to be reminded that small churches are, in fact, beautiful and they should spend less time dealing with an inferiority complex because they aren’t as large as other churches.

Instead of trying to mimic what the large churches in your area are doing, here are five things I believe small churches can uniquely offer the world right where they are:

1. Intergenerational ministry. There is a difference between intergenerational and multigenerational forms of ministry. Just because you have people of different ages gathered in the same space for worship does NOT make it an intergenerational ministry opportunity. Crossing borders between generations takes real effort. And too often larger churches segregate people based on age and stage of life. The small church, however, can’t do that because it’s too small. So instead of bemoaning the fact that you don’t have a youth ministry with 100+ kids in it, think of ways you can put the five to 10 youth you do have in contact with people from a different generation.

Numerous statistical studies actually show that an important factor in youth remaining active in the church is the presence of a deep relationship with someone older than them who is not a member of their immediate family. Small churches offer a rich and beautiful opportunity to forge these intergenerational relationships because, well, they have to. There aren’t enough people to segregate everyone into their own corners of the church. And thanks be to God for that!

2. Welcome special needs persons and families with special needs children. One of the quiet struggles churches often don’t recognize is how to incorporate persons with special needs into the life of the church. Small churches offer a unique opportunity to meet this need because they are small enough to warmly welcome and offer the individual attention a family who has a special needs child might need. It’s a daunting thing to take a child with special needs to church for fear of them standing out or somehow disturbing the flow of worship. It’s also very lonely for that child to get lost in the mix of a large, overwhelming children’s program. Small churches can offer love, hospitality and attention to make a family feel welcome. And the truth is, small churches can offer a worship experience that is vibrant but doesn’t necessarily have the overly-produced feel that worship in a larger church might have. This is actually very welcoming to a newcomer who might feel their presence would alter the flow of worship for others. In other words, special needs can be uniquely and lovingly met and welcomed in a small church.

3. More people can help lead worship. Since the small church is often less concerned with production led by professional worship leaders, it can incorporate more laity in the leading of worship. Remember: Nothing says the pastor is supposed to be the sole worship leader. Liturgy is the work of the people. And faithful worship incorporates the efforts of EVERYONE as together we offer ourselves to God in praise and thanksgiving. So find ways to let people pray, read Scripture, serve Communion, sing and maybe even occasionally preach in the small church. Give people a chance to lead and serve more; you might be surprised how sharing in the work of worship might begin to transform people.

4. More focus on community outreach. While small churches might bemoan the loss of in-house programs as numbers decline, I say it’s a great blessing. Large churches have to expend a great deal of effort managing and sustaining programs that focus inwardly on the life of the membership. Lots of money is spent on resources of Sunday Schools, youth programs, children’s ministry, etc. It’s really a rat race — just ask any pastor or staff person at a larger church in their most honest moments. Small churches just don’t have the resources to keep up in that race. So why try? There’s a great freedom in not worrying with the inwardly focused programs. You can actually look outwardly on your community and focus time and attention there. How can you open your space to community groups? Can you invite support groups to meet in your building (especially if your small church occupies a large building)? Can you find ways to resource your local community? Can you partner with other small churches or local missional efforts? You see, small church ministry is just ripe for people to finally break out from the inward, program-focused mindset of church and direct their attention to where God is at work outside of the walls of the church more fully.

5. Offer a family feel to others. Look, families aren’t all warm and fuzzy. They have their dysfunction. And so does a small church because it often operates like a big, extended family. However through all of that dysfunction, one thing is (hopefully) certain: People know they are loved. As our world becomes more global, there is a rise to locally-focused relationships in business, commerce and relationships. The small church can offer something that might get lost in a large church where people don’t always know one another by name — you can actually be a part of a family. In our worst moments, that family feel leads us to gossip or insulation from others who aren’t a part of our family. In our best moments, it’s an expression of true love extended to anyone searching for a community who will love them enough to never let them go. Family is tough and it’s messy. But it’s also very beautiful. And so is small church ministry.

Ben Gosden blogs at MastersDust.com.

Picnic, at the church, 23rd of August, Need: a chair, a dish & tableware. Get: a spot at the table, soul food, and Jesus

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. We meet from **6pm to 11pm**.

2015 DATES: August 28th September 25th October 23rd November 20th No December

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

CE News: Once vacations are over and school is back in session, the CE Committee invite the families for a pool party. While the young ones swim, the CE Committee would like to meet with the parents and discuss plans for the 2015-16 church year. You might ask "Why does my child need Sunday School?" and there is an answer. Come join us, we will work together and it is the committee's hope that we can present a limited but quality program this church year. August 23rd, 3:00 pm, in John & Sue Rice's backyard (56060 Erhart Drive, Mishawaka). Bring swimming suits & towels, the committee will provide drinks and snack.
Rain date will be August 30th.

South Bend Cubs outing August 29, 7 pm. A group of church members will attend a game with pre-purchased tickets. **BUT THERE ARE STILL SEATS AVAILABLE FOR THIS GAME** (our group is in section 114 rows G & F). If you would like to join the fun, the stadium number is 574-235-9988 or check the website, tickets are \$12.50 per person.

Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School
Summer School has ended but the fall session will begin Tuesday, September 8th with classes taking place 8:45 to 11:15 weekdays. We look forward to another year of sparking the learning light in our young students. If you know of any children who are looking for a preschool please share information with Jayne, (a mailbox in C.E. office) or pass along a registration form found in main office.
Thank you, Jayne Wurz

NEWS FROM THE MAC

The return of PACK-A-BACKPACK sponsored by WNDU is underway. Past Sunday bulletins have noted the need for volunteers, with further information (dates, times and location of the event) on the CE Lobby bulletin board, or you can call Debra. MAC churches are involved which offers an opportunity for the Albright Food Pantry, depending on the number of volunteers from the MAC churches, the Pantry will receive backpacks, along with school supplies to be distributed throughout the Mishawaka School Corporation elementary schools, especially where there is a significant need. Volunteers are very much needed, please consider helping. The dates are August 3,4,5 and August 10, 11, 12 both mornings and afternoons.

First Presbyterian Church will continue its partnership with Battell Elementary School with the help of the school social worker; therefore, backpacks and school supplies placed in the Big Red Tub will be taken to Battell.

Sadly, the MAC Board bid farewell to Warren Kirkwood in June due to his reassignment by the Methodist District. Warren was instrumental in starting the Albright Food Pantry. His dedication working with both clients and volunteers over the years is witness to the Pantry's success.

Pantry Director Carol Minx continues to ask for volunteers on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm and also on 3rd Friday from 10:00 am until 12 noon. These duties are for record keeping. Volunteers are also needed 2nd and 4th Fridays helping keep things going as the clients fill the carts.

It has been noted volunteer hours are highly rated in terms of dollars...\$21.00 per hour.

Church picnic August 23rd faith, fellowship, food!

Book Club: We will start with *The Ladies Room* by Carolyn Brown, September 20th. You have all summer to read and then join us as Rose Marie Reif will host and Judy Green will provide the refreshments.

'secrets overheard in the ladies bathroom of the church during a funeral- can/will change lives.' - a fun read.

And now, a note from Justin Appel...

Hello Church Members! I want to say a brief word of thanks and to introduce myself as your new organist and choir director. You have already provided a warm welcome in the form of many appreciative words before and after services, and for this I'm very grateful. As you have heard, I am a doctoral student at the University of Notre Dame, studying choral conducting. Michael Duryea was a colleague and good friend during last year. I've been a church musician for nearly a decade, and I find a great deal of joy in preparing music for services: instrumental, choral, and congregational. I look forward to serving First Presbyterian Church through this next year, and hope that my contribution will help you all to participate actively in worship. *Justin*



July 16-July 21 was a special week for three members of FPC as we traveled to Minneapolis, Minnesota to attend the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women. This was the first Gathering for Mary Ann Dentino, who also agreed, along with Darlene Seufert, to be voting representative for Wabash Valley Presbytery. That meant arriving a day earlier and learning a bit more about the officers and Staff who decide the programs and the groups that benefit from our Celebration Giving.

Pam Camren joined us a day later, in time for the first plenary whose theme was "One Body, One Spirit". The keynote speaker was Judy Siker, author of 2016 Horizon Bible Study, "Who Is Jesus?" As with each plenary there was singing, praying and reading and interpretation of scripture.



Day 2: "Oneness in the Community of Faith" Moderator of the Churchwide Coordinating Team, Mary Cook Jorgenson, gave a report of the business meeting and Melissa Bane Sevier, author of the 2017 Horizon Bible Study on Hebrews presented an overview of the study. Her talk entitled "Biscuits" brought back a lot of memories of Grandma's homemade biscuits and family gatherings.

Day 3: "Oneness in Creation" Stated Clerk for the General Assembly, Gradye Parsons, congratulated the committee on their hard work for exceeding attendance expectations. Instead of the 800 attendees expected, the final count was close to 1,800. There is hope that the Churchwide Gathering will continue to be held in 2018. The Moose Theater Players presented a skit promoting the award-winning Horizon Magazine. Judy Record Fletcher presented our current Bible Study, "Come to the Waters".

Day 4: "Oneness in the Global Community" Sunday morning was worship time with singing, Praising and Prayer. Holy Communion was served, while a Gathering Choir sang.

I won't go into details of each plenary, but they included dynamic and committed women speaking about the work being done globally and nationally to further the purpose of Presbyterian Women. The week also included educational opportunities, book groups, and a few trips to the Global Marketplace. After Sunday Worship it was time to pack, check out and head back to Indiana filled with new ideas, reflections and hopes for the future of the Presbyterian Church and Presbyterian Women. The event needs to be assessed, numbers need to be crunched, and decisions made about the feasibility of holding a 2018 Gathering.

For those of us that attended, we vote YES!

Darlene Seufert

CHURCH STAFF



Church Secretary

Debra Leonard

Debrafcpmishawaka@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Joan Horvath

Joanfcpmishawaka@gmail.com

Organist

Justin Appel

Justinmappel@gmail.com

Custodian

Ken Vargo

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Secretary hours: 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Financial Secretary hours: Mondays 8 - 11:30 a.m.

Hours will change to Monday & Thursday starting September 1st.

Contact us at (574) 259-7874 or

First Presbyterian Church-Mishawaka

P.O. Box 744 Mishawaka, Indiana 46546

or fcpmishawaka@gmail.com



Newsletter deadline is August 17 at noon.

Please send **information for September** newsletter to Sue Rice at suce@aol.com or mail information to Debra, the church secretary.

Have you noticed...Mission information will now all be on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs. PW will now place their information on 2nd board in the lobby.

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, Teresa Primmer, Bill Walter

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

Personnel: Bruce McClure, Chair

Prayer Chain: Lynett Heritz

Presbyterian Women:

Teresa Primmer and Carole Polk

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

The May and Favorite families are happy to announce the birth of Vivian Joan Bergstrom on July 2.

Vivian's proud parents are Laura May and Don Bergstrom.

Everyone is well and happy.

Greetings from Help With Love!

On May 1st we held an informational lunch for churches wanting to know more about where the Help With Love ministry is going. There were about 14 churches represented with 25 people attending.

In January of this year Help With Love joined forces with Hope Ministries. In February, Amy Houghtaling came on board as Operations Manager of Help With Love. We are working hard to expand our network both in churches and volunteers as well as the ways in which we support the benevolence ministry of local churches. Since its creation, Help With Love has aided churches in local outreach through a number of ministries. The main conduit of this has been the Helpline, which has fielded around 2,000 calls over the past five years. People from all over South Bend and Mishawaka call in with various requests and are connected with agencies as well as churches to meet those needs. Callers are referred to us by 211, local nonprofits and numerous agencies all over St. Joseph County. Often when churches receive a request for financial help, Help With Love will verify the person's need and make a recommendation to the church as to whether or not they should help with the person's request.

We are located at the Northeast corner of Lafayette Blvd. and Monroe St. The address is **432 S. Lafayette Blvd.**, South Bend, IN 46634.

RSVP: Amy Houghtaling ahoughtaling@hopesb.org 574-626-8468 . Thanks for all your support. We look forward to hearing from you

In Christ, Rusty Polinder & Amy Houghtaling

Church Picnic, 10 am, August 23rd, singing, praying, eating!



Conformation Class of 2015, On Sunday June 14th, a three member conformation class was received by the church members. Victoria Green, Christopher Krafft and Michael Green all became confirmed members of First Presbyterian Church. Family and Christian Education chair, Darlene Seufert stood with the class members as Pastor Steve Braden welcomed the class. Congratulations to our new young church members.

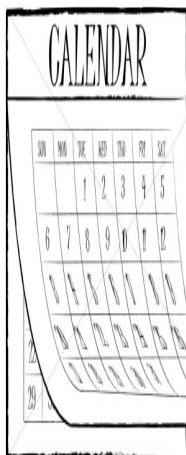
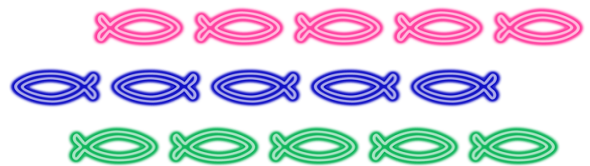
The Taunaholo-Pursehouse family pose for a happy day as Jason and the kids were baptized June 7, and Sivi & Jason joined. Sivi and Jason were married in the church on July 18th. A big WELCOME to our new church members.



Missions: The mission committee was able to fill 14 bags for the kids at Memorial Hospitals cancer ward. Thank you all for the great support on this project.

Next...

We will *begin* collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald house at Memorial hospital the week of July 19th. There will be a plastic container for this collection in the foyer. Lets see how many times we can fill it up to help the children and families at Memorial.



Church Calendar, for those with internet access, current calendar is available at www.fpcmishawaka.net. Debra keeps the large calendar/blotter on her desk up-to-date. The current month's calendar from the newsletter is posted on the Clipboard Corner bulletin board and in Fellowship Hall. If you have something to add to the church calendar, or see a correction, please email or leave a note for Debra.

Thank you.

Church Picnic 23rd of August



Smile When You Use Amazon

If you plan to purchase books, music and other wonderful gifts from Amazon, you may effortlessly donate to PW (free to you!) by signing up for and shopping through Amazon Smile. Simply visit smile.amazon.com and select Presbyterian Women as your favorite charitable organization. Shop as you normally would through "regular" Amazon, but and even better!, when you shop through Amazon Smile, a portion of the purchase of eligible items is donated to Presbyterian Women. In other words: you shop, Amazon gives, PW receives!

Wedding Ministry Update

Pam Martz and Pam Camren represented FPC at two bridal shows this past winter promoting the use of our beautiful sanctuary for weddings of non-members. As of July 15, there has been one non-member wedding and two more are scheduled on the 2015 calendar. The Wedding Ministry Team has assisted with two member weddings as well, Katie and Justin McCloskey in April and Sivi and Jason Pursehouse on July 18.

Other members of the congregation may be asked to assist in some way; arranging the sanctuary set up, assisting guests at the elevator, clean up and whatever other assistance may be needed. If you are interested in supporting this ministry in any way, see the two Pams and they will be glad to place your names on our list of helpers and will be glad to give you any additional information you may need.

Barry Borst has officiated at two of the weddings and comes to our ministry highly recommended. Our second officiant to be approved by the Session to conduct weddings for us is Rev. Dean Heisey who has done pulpit supply for us. We look forward to their continued involvement in this ministry.

The three non-member weddings will have more than covered expenses of the ministry to date. **This outreach ministry is helping FPC financially.** We have many names with which to follow up so pray for the effectiveness of our outreach as we serve couples wishing to have a church wedding.

The responses of wedding parties to date is that it is a beautiful sanctuary in which to be married and the effort of the team who have helped was very gracious and welcoming. We pray that these efforts will help others find a church home, with us or at another church. Pam Camren and Pam Martz

Church Picnic August 23rd 10 am bring tableware, a dish to share, a chair to sit in and a glad heart!

Deacons: The Deacons Christmas Shopping Program is earning money with 2 fundraisers.

Hacienda Fiesta Give Back Night

September 21 at 100 Center location, mark your calendar then enjoy lunch or dinner, dine-in or carry-out. A portion of your purchase will be returned to the Deacons. Check out the September newsletter for a copy of a voucher that you need to take with you when you make your purchase.

Postage Stamps are still available for purchase. The sending of cards and letters still fills someone's day with joy when received. Contact Carole Polk with inquiries about what stamps are available.



August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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<p>2 <u>communion</u> greeter: Bill B. ushers: Ethan & Dan B. W. Leader: Lynett Heritz Servers: Anna, Lynett & Angela <i>Dean Heisey, pulpit</i></p>	3	4	5	6 Elkhart Schools start	7	8
<p>9 greeter: Pam & John M. ushers: Carole & Bill B. W. Leader: John Rice <i>Steve Mullin, pulpit</i></p>	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p>16 greeter: Lynett H. Ushers: Michael G. & Gordon R. W. Leader: Pam Camren <i>Don Neely, pulpit</i></p>	17	18 S.B. and Mishawaka Schools Start	19 TOPS 8:30am PHM Schools Start	20	21	22
<p>23 Church Picnic Ushers: Dick D & Janet F. W. Leader: Bruce McClure <i>Vicky Garrett, pulpit</i> <i>Pool party @ Rice House 3 pm</i></p>	24	25 St Joe Valley Master Gardeners 6:30-8:30pm	26 TOPS meeting 8:30 am	27	28 Scrapbook Club 6-11 pm	29
<p>30 greeter: Bill B. Ushers: Neil S. & John H. W. Leader: Darlene Seufert <i>Don Neely, pulpit</i></p>	31		<p>Presbyterian Women Kick off Dinner September 16th, 6pm</p>			

Annual Picnic August 23rd, 10am, church parking lot, bring a chair for the service, a dish to share and a place setting. Deacons will provide main dish and drinks.

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Safely) will be meeting at First Presbyterian Church while Battell Center is closed for renovations. Kathy Bellairs, a member at both can share information for those interested.

Prayer Group Meets to unite in prayer weekly.
 If you would like to learn more talk with Pam C. or Janet F.
 Requests for prayers can be made to Janet Freeman.
jfree930@aol.com
