

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, Ind. 46544

First Presbyterian News

May 2015

Volume 53 No. 9

The Deacons are having a fund raiser!

Nelson's Port-A-Pit Chicken

May 2nd 11am-3pm in the church parking lot.

Cost is \$6.50 for 1/2 chicken. Please tell your friends and family and do the "Presbyterian Drive thru" a new way to support the Deacons.

Ticket sales will be 19th and 26th during fellowship. Contact Carole Polk for more information.

Girls Night Out...so mark your calendars for Friday, May 8. It will be a Movie and Pot Luck night at Lynett's house at 6 p.m. Movie to be decided. More info to follow...

The Building Facilities annual **Spring Clean up** will be **May 9 at 8:30 am**. Please join us for this opportunity to spruce up the building and grounds, there's always plenty to be done! If you have a particular project in mind and need some supplies, let John Martz know. A light lunch will be served. Bring any of your yard tools that you like to work with. All help is appreciated. There is a sign up/suggestion sheet on the bulletin board. Thank You.

Book Club's next meeting will be on the **17th of May at 2 pm**. *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins. We will meet at Rose Marie's home and Lynett will lead the discussion. This is our last scheduled read before summer. We will start up again next September with *The Ladies Room* by Carolyn Brown. You are *always* welcome to attend, even if you have not read the book. So please do, there is room. You may contact Judy, at mtcgjag@aol.com or see information on board in the foyer. Thank you. We take turns hosting, leading and providing snacks. Possible future reads: *Sea Change* by Karen White, *Cuckoo's Calling* by J. K. Rolling, *The Girl in the Photograph: The Story of Kim Phuc*

Last day of Pre-school May 22nd.

Marvin Dandurand will be in the pulpit on Pentecost, May 24th, please remember to "wear" Red...

Memorial Day, May 25, the office will be closed.

PWCT last meeting for year, June 3rd, supper carry in.

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: 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



The Future of Mainline Protestantism

What is the future of moderate-to-liberal “mainline” congregations? Over the past few decades, the bookshelves have been heavy with volumes exploring the “mainline decline” that has afflicted Presbyterians, Methodists, Congregationalists, and Lutherans for almost four decades. During most of this period, the conventional wisdom has been that only conservative evangelical churches with contemporary worship grow, while, with a few notable large-church exceptions (e.g. Fourth Presbyterian in Chicago, Second Presbyterian in Indianapolis), moderate-to-liberal “mainline” congregations wither. Thus the conventional prescription has been that mainline churches must become more evangelical (“The Purpose-Driven Church”) and more contemporary in worship (too many books to mention).

But is this the only answer? What about congregations that don’t find conservative/evangelical Christianity to accurately reflect their understanding of Jesus Christ? Is there no hope for them? Has the populace as a whole turned evangelical? Has the desire for a more moderate, inclusive, open Christianity that once characterized the “Protestant establishment” totally disappeared? Are young adults all attuned to the Religious Right?

A few years ago, researcher Diana Butler Bass found herself in an Episcopalian congregation that was, contrary to conventional wisdom, unabashedly liberal, deeply spiritual, and thriving. Suspecting that the conventional wisdom might be mistaken, she began seeking moderate-to-liberal “mainline” congregations that were likewise healthy, vibrant, and growing. Her first book, *Practicing Congregations*, intrigued the Lilly Endowment, which funded her to do a nation-wide study of such churches. And she found a number of them, Presbyterian, Methodist, United Church of Christ, Episcopalian, and Lutheran.

Why were these congregations thriving, while so many of their denominational sister-churches were declining? Unlike some of the “cookie-cutter” evangelical mega-churches, who all follow the same patterns, they were highly diverse. But, she discerned, they shared a similar commitment: to be “intentional” about grounding themselves in spiritual practices. There were a variety of spiritual practices — prayer, spiritual discernment, hospitality, healing, service, and others — but all the congregations were very intentional about not just “doing church.” They enabled and expected their members to grow spiritually. Several required a demanding year-long process of spiritual growth for membership.

Butler Bass called these “Practicing Congregations,” who were embracing “intentional Christianity.” She found that these churches were attracting significant numbers of “spiritual seekers,” including young adults, who found a more open and inclusive understanding of the Christian faith than was offered in more evangelical churches. These seekers valued congregations who weren’t just maintaining the status quo – doing church the way it had been done in that congregation for decades. Rather, they were actively exploring and embodying the rich spiritual depth of the Christian faith within their respective traditions. They were spiritual powerhouses, opening their congregants to the transformative power of the Holy Spirit through high expectations of prayer, service, and worship.

Needless to say, Butler Bass seems to offer a ray of hope to congregations who have been having trouble feeling hopeful. She has written three books about her quest: *Practicing Congregations*, *From Nomads to Pilgrims*, and *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, which I commend to your attention.

I believe this congregation has potential to be a congregation which practices “intentional Christianity,” moving beyond maintenance ministry to vibrant engagement with the Holy Spirit. As the Pastoral Nominating Committee makes progress in its work, pray that they find the leader whom God calls to lead the congregation into a deeper engagement with the power of the Christian faith.

Adult Sunday School... please join us after church, 11:15 am, in the conference room as we discuss, share and learn a whole new topic starting May 3rd. Alan and Pam Camren will help lead this class. Please watch bulletin and bulletin board for more details.

■ **Confirmation Class...**

- In April and May, Pastor Steve and Darlene Seufert will be leading a confirmation class for our eligible youth. Youth will work with mentors as they explore the
- meaning of Christian faith, our Presbyterian heritage, worship, prayer, the Bible,
- and their own faith.
- Confirmation Sunday will be June 14.



Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School

We will end the school year this month. A visit to the zoo and Graduation Day will be just some of the happenings. This is always a happy/sad month. As children move on, our next years classrooms are already filling up. Summer school will again happen, helping 5 year olds get ready for kindergarten. This is a short 8 week class. We cover basics and build confidence for the child. If you know of child who might enjoy/need this class, please contact the office for more details. Thank you, Jayne Wurz

Special Gifts offering Camperships to Geneva Center

The Special Gifts Committee is offering to help with the cost of attending Geneva Center Camps. Brochures for the summer camps, with the theme of “Power Up,” are available in the church office and the table in the narthex. Further information is available online: <http://www.genevacenter.org/SummerCamp.html>
Let the summer begin!



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
Prayer; a quiet moment in your day.

The Mission Committee will begin a drive to collect items to be put into surprise bags for children undergoing chemo. You can help by either donating items or by the purchase of bags thru Lynett Heritz. More information will be coming soon.

The mission committee wanted to again thank all of you who helped us warm the toes of 117 people at Broadway Christian Parrish.

We also want to thank everyone who fills the grocery cart weekly for the MAC food pantry. It is great to see the generosity of our congregation.

PNC Update: We are excited to report that we have had multiple PIFs (Pastoral Information Forms) of possible candidates. We will be taking the next step and conducting first interviews for several and pray that God is leading us in the correct direction. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. PNC Committee; Ethan DeMaegd, Betty Johnson, Jerry Kendall, Katie Rice McCloskey, Mary Watt, Greg Phillips and Lynett Heritz

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!

News of Wabash Valley Presbytery...

Frank Vardeman, who has been our General Presbyter since 2010, has been forced to resign due to health issues. Frank had a tumor on his spine which posed a life-threatening situation, and following surgery he was left paraplegic. He has taken disability and is undergoing rehabilitation to try to walk again. Please keep in him in your prayers.

It is not yet apparent what direction the presbytery will take as to future staffing, as it is in the midst of a reorganization process with is complicated by the desire of the Geneva Center team to bring a transitional leader on board for the Center’s planned “spin-off” into a yet-to-be-formed non-profit entity. Stay tuned.

Animal Welfare Coalition of Michiana is a recently formed organization. Their object is bring together organizations and community leaders to promote the humane and responsible treatment of animals. They are have a promotion for May were folks can get their pets fixed. Its a great deal, maybe even free. The letter will be posted on bulletin board and fliers have been put out.

NEWS FROM THE MAC

Word received from MAC church affiliate, St. Andrews United Church of Christ, that the congregation has been dissolved due to the declining and mostly elderly membership. The building has been gifted to Horizon Christian Fellowship.

Albright Food Pantry Director Carol Minx reports 820 pounds of food and cash donations of \$1686 during the month of March. The Food Bank of Northern Indiana directed a large donation of USDA food to the Pantry recently. The number of clients served in February dropped due to bad weather.

The Albright Food Pantry has received another award from the Food Bank due the manner in which clients are served and the generous support by MAC churches and the dedication of volunteers. THERE IS A NEED FOR A VOLUNTEER FOR THE THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH..HOURS 10:00 AM. UNTIL NOON. This volunteer would be helping with the registration sign-in sheets.

The Volunteer dinner will be held Wednesday, 20. Entertainment will be provided by a group from East Methodist church.

From St Joseph Regional Medical Center: Expecting a grant renewal for the Stop Smoking outreach initiative. The Outreach group is organizing an event for the South Bend 150 Anniversary celebration.

On April 18 a group of IUSB dental hygienist students will hold a free clinic for children.

News from the churches:

- ◆ East Methodist is having a spaghetti dinner on April 18 and rummage sale on April 24 and 25.
- ◆ 1st Methodist held a butterfly release on Easter Sunday.
- ◆ 1st Presbyterian basement sale scheduled for the week of April 12. 117 pairs of socks were collected and given to Broadway Christian Parish

Register now for the 2015 Churchwide Gathering!



Registration for the [2015 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) is open!

Register now: www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering

The Gathering, held once every three years, is an opportunity for Presbyterian women from across the country (and around the world!) to gather for worship, education, community-building, fun and renewal. Participants will enjoy workshops, tours, forums, plenary sessions with inspiring speakers and worship. So turn on your GPS, turn off your hectic schedule and follow Minnie the Moose (the 2015 CWG moose-cot) to the lovely Hyatt Regency Minneapolis June 18–21 for worship, fun, fellowship, connection and spiritual uplift! The theme of the Gathering is “One Body, One Spirit,” based on 1 Corinthians 12:12–27. Registration for the event is just \$395 (less than in 2012!), with hotel rooms at the Hyatt Regency at \$169 per night (up to four guests per room). Rooms are also available at the Hilton Minneapolis.

Please contact Darlene if you would like to join other women from our church attending.

Presbyterian Women,

*April was a busy month for PW. Gifts of Women Sunday was an enlightening day as well as informational, Disaster Relief for so many. The many women who ushered, greeted, served fellowship and helped welcome Beth, thanks. Then came the basement sale which brought in funds for PW's many missions. A grateful THANK YOU to the workers and donators to help make this such a success.

*In May, the **BirthDay Offering** will be collected. (May 10th) Since 1922, women have been giving one penny for each year of their life as a BirthDay Offering. This offering is collected to celebrate the blessings in the lives of Presbyterian Women. The offering funds up to five projects that are not included in the ongoing General Assembly mission support, such as child care, drug counseling, elderly care, literacy and women's concerns. More information will be given in the May 10th Minute for Mission.

*June 3rd will be the last meeting for PWCT (and any circle members wishing to join) for a calendar meeting and supper at the church. (5:30 pm.)

*The search committee has filled positions for next years seats:

Carole Polk: co-moderator to replace Darlene Seufert

Dyan Phillips: search committee to replace Ida LaBelle

*As always, a reminder that every woman of First Presbyterian Church-Mishawaka is a automatic member of PW. Circles will resume next fall, there are three to choose from that meet at different times and places. Any of the circles would welcome your attendance.

Thanks again and have a sunny and warm summer.

Darlene Seufert and Teresa Primmer, co-moderators.

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**Ken's schedule is changing to:
Mornings, Monday, Tuesday
and Friday.

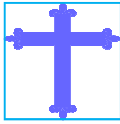
Pastor hours: please check Sunday Bulletin, or call for appointment.

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

Contact us at (574) 259-7874 or fcpmishawaka@gmail.com

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

Hours will change to Mondays only starting June 1st.

mail address: First Presbyterian Church-Mishawaka
P.O. Box 744
Mishawaka, Indiana 46546-0744**Newsletter deadline is MAY 17 at NOON.** Please send information for June and July newsletter to Sue Rice at suce@aol.com or mail information to Debra, the church secretary.**Update on Organist Position...** Michael Duryea is completing his master's degree at the end of this term. He will continue as our organist for a portion of the summer – until after his and Shaina's baby is born – but will be moving out of town sometime in mid-to-late summer to take a job. We are in conversation with Notre Dame (Dr. Paul Walker) about having a graduate student to replace Michael, but it is too early in the process to know just how things will develop. Notre Dame is starting a doctoral program in sacred music, and things are in a bit of flux at the present.

It warms my heart and feeds my soul. So many wonderful cards, calls and visits have been a blessing. Thank you one and all. Ida

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/Elder**Personnel:** Bruce McClure, Chair**Prayer Chain:** Lynett Heritz**Presbyterian Women:** Darlene Seufert
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

Since its introduction, The Deacons Christmas Shopping Program has provided clothing to thousands of children in our community. In an effort to continue to help as many children as we can, the Deacons have scheduled two fundraising events.

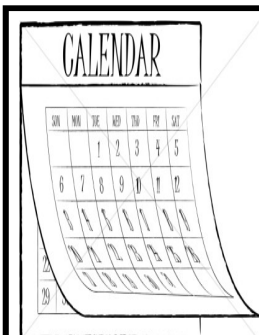
Nelson's Port-A-Pit Chicken – May 2, 11am-3pm church parking lot. Pre-sale tickets will be available the 19th and 26th during fellowship. Cost is \$6.50. ***Anyone willing to help the day of the sale, or if you have a location to hang flyers or sell tickets please contact Carole... did I mention that we will have a chicken suit?!*****Hacienda Fiesta Give Back Night. Sept 21st** at 100 Center Hacienda – details to follow later, but mark your calendar now to enjoy lunch or dinner (dine-in or carry-out) at the 100 Center Hacienda. A portion of your purchase will be returned to the Deacons.**Postage Stamps** are still available for purchase. Contact Carole Polk with any questions or orders.



May 2015

Worship 10 am, Fellowship 11 am Adult School 11:15 am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Port a Pit 11am to 3pm Yum-yummy
3 Greeter Betty J. ushers: Ethan D. & Dan B. W. Leader: Chuck W.	4	5 <i>GiveLocalsJV.org</i> Over 50 nonprofits Food Bank of Ind. *matching funds* See bulletin board	6	7	8	9 Church Clean up 8:30 am start
10 Mothers Day Greet: Chris & Chuck ushers: Carole P. & Bill B. W. Leader: Darlene Birthday offering collected	11	12 Session 7pm	13	14	15 Esther circle 1:30 pm 	16
17 <i>Newsletter deadline</i> Greeter: Janet F. Ushers: Michael G. & Gordon R. W. Leader: Chris W. Book Club 2pm	18 Elizabeth circle 7pm 	19	20	21 Ruth circle 7pm 	22	23 Praise GOD from WITHIN ALL blessings FLOW
24 Pentecost Greeter: Carole P. Ushers: Greg P. & Janet F. W. Leader: Dyan P. Marvin Dandurand	25 Memorial Day Office closed	26 <u>summer</u>	27 <u>office</u> <u>hours</u>	28 <u>begin</u>	29 scrapbooking club 6 to 11 p.m.	
31 Greeter: Bill B. Ushers: Neil S. & John H. W. Leader: John Rice	1 Financial Secretary summer hours begin Mondays only	2	3 PWCT 5:30 pm	4	5	



Church Calendar... There are several ways to check out the church calendar:
 *For those with internet access, the current calendar is available on the church's website: 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 in the Christian Education lobby 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.

From Disciples Treehouse: Easter morning the kids and I made *Empty Tomb Rolls* – as a way to teach the kids about the true meaning of Easter and have a treat to share at fellowship. Easy to make and tasted really good. Here is the recipe.

Ingredients

- 1 (10 ounce) package jumbo refrigerated crescent rolls
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 8 large marshmallows
- ¼ cup butter, melted

Instructions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Prepare muffin pan (preferably jumbo muffin pan) with non-stick cooking spray. Separate rolls into eight triangles and set aside. Combine sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Dip each marshmallow into butter, then roll in cinnamon-sugar and place on a triangle dough. Pinch dough around marshmallow, sealing all edges. Make sure to seal well or all the marshmallow will escape. Dip tops of dough into the remaining butter and then into the cinnamon-sugar. Place roll with the sugar side up into prepared muffin cups. Bake at 375 degrees for 13 - 15 minutes. Eat warm.



Opt: Read the Easter story from the Bible found in Matthew 27-28, Mark 15-16, Luke 23-24, and/or John 19-20. If you are not familiar with the Bible the story is recounted by these four men...the story is virtually the same but is found in these four places in the Bible.

Jesus —marshmallow

After Jesus died on the cross he was wrapped in linen— roll in butter and cinnamon

Jesus was put into tomb — crescent roll dough

3rd day Jesus has risen and no longer in tomb — open cooked roll to find no marshmallow.



To our church family and dear friends, thank you for helping to make our wedding day a day to remember!
Katie and Justin McCloskey