

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, Ind. 46544

First Presbyterian News

November 2014

Volume 53 No. 4

Pastor's Column...

This month I want to update you on our transition process, and give some personal reflections about this congregation in relation to that process.

First, the process itself. In electing the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) on October 5, the congregation reached an important milestone. In a sense, we have been preparing for that moment through most of the first year of my transitional pastorate. We worked together to address some conflict issues, to restore the church's basic functions of stewardship, leadership, and fellowship, and to engage in some "holy conversations" about our experiences of God's grace, our assessment of the congregation's strengths and weaknesses, and our desires for the leadership qualities our new pastor will have.

The PNC will work primarily with its commission on ministry (COM) transitional care consultant, the Rev. Anna Parkinson. Anna, who spoke to our congregational gathering on September 7, was formerly associate pastor at the Goshen church, and is very experienced in helping churches through the pastoral transition process. As I have stated before, my role as your transitional pastor does not include working directly with the PNC.

The PNC's initial task will be to work with Anna in completing the denomination's Ministry Information Form (MIF – formerly called "church information form," or "CIF"). This form is designed to portray our congregation in a way that is both accurate and attractive, such that it will interest potentially appropriate candidates. Once this form is completed and approved of by the presbytery's commission on ministry – a process that can take several months – the actual search will start. Stay tuned for further information.



Beyond the process, I want to share some personal reflections as well. In our Holy Conversations on September 7, participants completed a "SWOT Analysis" of our congregation's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Each table compiled the individual results and shared them. Because of time constraints, we made no attempt to synthesize or analyze the many and varied response, but distributed the compilation of responses the following Sunday.

I did not participate in the discussions, but had I done so, I would have added some strengths that did not get adequately mentioned. If you are a long-time member, perhaps you look at the current congregation, compare it to what it used to be, and focus on what has been lost. Coming in as an outsider, I have a different perspective. I see a relative small congregation in a large building – commonplace among Presbyterian churches – but one with unusual strengths. There are many congregations our size with no children and an average age over 65. Such congregations may have a glorious past, but they don't have much of a future. We are not in that situation.

I see a vibrant, multi-generational congregation with a lively sense of humor, a commitment to worship, music, and mission, a strong and active Presbyterian Women, and a desire to make a difference in the community. I see a congregation with some really great people – the kind of people others want to be around. I see a congregation capable of attracting new members, as indeed it is doing. I see a congregation with a future, if it chooses to embrace it.

As I have said to the session and many others, my goal is to help the congregation reach a financially sustainable staffing model which will enable it to seek appropriate and affordable leadership. Based on current reality, this will have to be part-time pastoral leadership.

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I know that moving from full-time to part-time pastoral leadership is a difficult transition for congregations. It takes openness and flexibility, and a realization that a part-time pastor won't be able to do all the visitation and ministry that a full-time pastor can do – as I'm sure you have experienced from my service among you.

There are many different models of part-time leadership: a retired pastor living nearby who wants to work part-time (like me), sharing a pastor with another congregation, a bi-vocational pastor who works or studies elsewhere, a commissioned ruling elder (CRE – formerly called lay pastors), and others. I hope that this congregation, through the session and PNC, will be open to exploring different options, so that it may secure the best leader available.

I believe that, if the congregation can secure strong and creative part-time leadership, it can not only maintain but grow. It will take prayer, faith, and flexibility on the part of the congregation. It will take a commitment to work and stay together, overcoming the natural frictions and personality clashes that are part of every congregation. Don't forget that sense of humor! And it will take openness to the leading of the Holy Spirit, who stands ready to guide you. Let us continue to pray for one another and for the future of the congregation.



Election of PNC and Officers: At the congregational meeting following worship on October 5, the congregation elected the PNC, a new class of officers, and the congregational representatives to the nominating committee:

Pastoral Nominating Committee: Ethan DeMaegd, Lynett Heritz, Betty Johnson, Greg Phillips, Katie Rice, Mary Watt, Jerry Kendall (alternate)

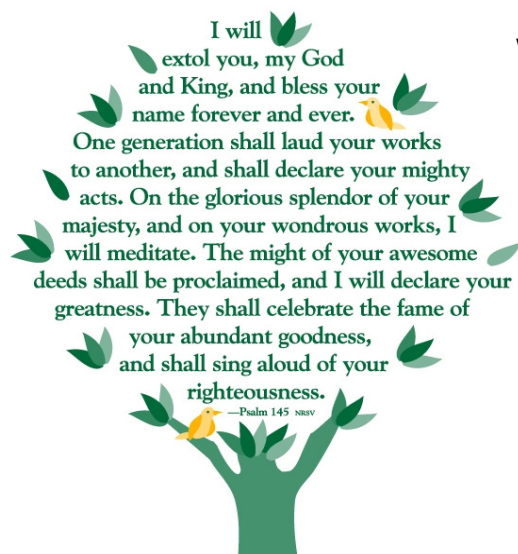
Ruling Elders/Session: Angela Bellinger (Mission), Judy Green (Worship & Music), Ron May (Stewardship & Finance)

Deacons: Tom Camren, Teresa Primmer

Nominating Committee: Anna Bowers, Dick Dentino, Jerry Kendall, Betty Favorite, Bill Bellairs (alternate)

Thanks to the 2014 nominating committee (Bill Bellairs, Jerry Kendall, Ida LaBelle, Dave Sulak, Mary Ann Dentino & Chris Wukovits co-chairs for finding excellent leaders for our church, and to those men and women who graciously said "Here I am, send me" when the call came. Please carry these men and women in your prayers.

Fall Stewardship Campaign:

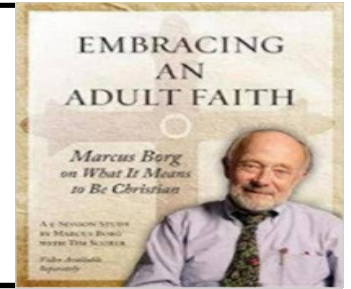


Our fall stewardship focus will be "Generations of Generosity" - God's generosity in so richly blessing us, and the passing on of blessing and faith from generation to generation in this congregation. The program will culminate in Consecration Sunday, November 9, when you will be invited to complete your 2015 Estimate of Giving card as an act of worship during our Sunday service.

Reread the words from our stewardship theme in the tree to the left. They've NOT changed in thousands of years. The glorious splendor of God's majesty has not been reduced by budget cuts. The fame of God's goodness doesn't suffer from attendance woes. God's awesome deeds are not reduced because we seek a new permanent pastor. As we move along in our stewardship season, please be mindful, hopeful, and prayerful about our future and your role in it both a financial and personal sense. We need our stewards to be involved!

Sunday Morning Class – *Embracing an Adult Faith:*

Our Sunday morning class will be viewing and discussing Marcus Borg's DVD *Embracing an Adult Faith*. Topics will include Dr. Borg's often-provocative perspectives on God, Jesus, Salvation, Community, and Practice. Join Pastor Steve in the Meeting Room for a lively conversation about the very heart of our faith.



Ending Well Materials Our Ending Well class covered a variety of topics on end-of-life issues, including living wills, health care representatives, getting your affairs in order, basic estate planning, hospice, burial and cremation, funeral planning, etc. We will have some packets of the handouts available to pick up in the office. If you would like a packet mailed to you, please call church secretary Debra Leonard.

We encourage you to give the church a copy of your planning materials, including the new form to indicate your wishes regarding your funeral or memorial service.

**New Website.**

Our new website – www.fpcmishawaka.net – is up and running. (Note that it is “.net” rather than the old website’s “.org.”) Please check it out and email Pastor Steve if you have suggestions or corrections. Some of the pages are not yet complete, but it already offers these features:

- Page for the upcoming Sunday
- Page for coming special events
- The current church calendar
- Current and recent newsletters
- Directions

When fully implemented, the website will also include:

- Online giving through PayPal (with the option of credit card giving)
- Online event registration
- Page for the Weekday Nursery School
- Page for the wedding ministry
- Sermon audio files
- Other pages as requested and appropriate

To keep the website current and improving, we need your help:

Please email Pastor Steve – revsbb91@gmail.com – with corrections or changes

If you have an upcoming event in the church, please prepare a graphic to be posted.

Wherever possible, such graphics should be landscape in orientation, colorful, and saved as a jpg or other picture format.

We are always seeking photos of recent church events. Take pictures! Bring or email them to Debra in the church office.

Keep in mind that, while the website will be useful to members, one of its main functions is as to introduce the church to visitors, many of whom do their “church shopping” online. Remember that it is a work in progress as well.



News from Presbyterian Woman

The month of October was very busy for PW. Noodles, soup mixes and cheese balls were made the week before the Mission/PW Tea fund raiser (contact Mary Ann Dentino for more details), then a week of setting up for the bazaar held here at the church on the 18th. PW served lunch, and sold cook books along with many baked goodies on the day of the sale. The many cooking talents of the women helped to make the day a success for PW. For a first try, the kitchen served lunch and made a small but good profit, receiving many complements on their items. Thank you all who worked a shift (or two) and the many members who made a purchase. On the 19th, PW had 56 baby bundles to present for dedication Sunday. After a special program they are boxed and sent off to the new mothers who truly are grateful to receive. The work of Presbyterian Women continues to serve the world and local needs.



Up coming events,

November 2nd: Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team meeting, noon

December no Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team meeting

December 6th: Breakfast with Santa

The Horizon **Bible Study**, Reconciling Paul, A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians Continues with Lesson Three in November. "Covenants and God's Enduring Faithfulness". In 2 Corinthians 3:1-4:6, Paul defines the meaning of the "old" covenant and "new" covenant. Just as Paul was making sense of his Jewish faith but Christian beliefs, we are asked to use the "Old Covenant" and New Covenant" to explore how we understand people of different faiths. There is always room for one more at any circle. Please join us if you have time.

Elizabeth meets on 3rd Monday, at 7:00 p.m. see Mary Ann for more information

Ruth meets on 3rd Thursday, at 7:00 p.m. See Teresa for more information

Esther meets on 3rd Friday, at 1:30 p.m. see Ida for more information

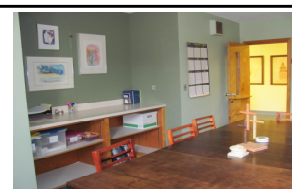
Or check board at top of stairs for more information.

Darlene Seufert, Co Moderator



New Meeting Room and Refurbished Crib Room

There have been some changes in the C.E. wing of the church. There has been a team of painters working on several rooms. The Crib room has been repainted and Dyan Phillips is in the process of painting a mural of Baby Moses on the wall. The former Toddler Room has been turned into a Meeting Room. Children can now be dropped off down the hall at the PWNS rooms during church worship time. Stop by & check it out!



LITTLE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD MISSION

As you know, the bazaar and bake sale was to raise funds for Presbyterian Women's Celebration Giving, to help support "adopted" daughter Mylene in the Philippines and to support the Xupjil cistern ministry in Mexico. What you probably don't know is that the Chancel Choir has also supported a child in the Philippines through Little Children of the World. It started many years ago with 4 year old Jane Jornales. The choir supported her each year through her college training and now we support a Grade 9 boy named Jay Cheever Rocabarte. Jay was recently chosen to represent his school at a regional assembly for Grade 9 leaders. He has been active in Boy Scouts and likes to draw. Last year we sent resources to provide a bicycle for Jay. We receive letters and pictures which are posted on the bulletin board in Westminster Hall. Come and meet Jay through his letters!

NEWS FROM THE MISHAWAKA ALLIANCE OF CARE

The meeting opened with the "money guy", Jim Braunsdorf's 'tid-bit' from the internet. This was a take on tangled Christmas lights ...another insight in life's journey.

From the Food Pantry Director, Carol Minix: *Pantry statistics:* 342 household served, (noted a drop in the number, an indication an increase in the number of people finding jobs) the number of folks over the age of 60 continues to increase. August donations; 339 pounds of food and \$1921.00 cash. **People Gotta Eat** distribution continues, a big help in keeping the Pantry filled. The Pantry, by adhering to strict rules, continues to be eligible to receive government commodities, such as frozen items which can now be stored in the new freezer. Clients are receiving help with transportation for appointments and work assignments, \$10 in gas cards and 22— \$2 bus passes.

Tammy Linderman has volunteered to be a back-up director. She has full knowledge of the workings of the pantry. The Board welcomes her service. Carol is speaking at several area churches in order to give congregations a view of the work of the Pantry. Volunteers are still needed to stock shelves especially on Mondays.

From SJRMC: A new coordinator to direct the stop smoking program has been hired. The Great American Smoke-out takes place November 20. Janet Freeman, Mission

New Smock Fund: Through the generosity of the Smock Foundation, our congregation has a new Smock Fund. The Smock Foundation is a charitable trust located in Fort Wayne, which serves Presbyterians throughout Indiana. Our church previously had a Smock Fund for installation of the elevator. However, the new fund is to be used for emergency help to members of the congregation in times of need. The grant was for \$3000, and may be renewable when it is exhausted. It will be administered by representatives from the session's mission committee and the deacons. Details are still to be worked out. However, if you are aware of an emergency need within our congregation, please let Pastor Steve, Chris Wukovits, or Mary Ann Dentino know.

Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School

November equals feast and flight for the pre-school. The first week of November is our big week of enjoying God's majestic space. We will be making our own space ships and learning different things about the planets. The children love this time! Our Annual Thanksgiving Feast will be held on Wednesday, November 26th. All family members are invited to join us. The children share Thanksgiving songs and then we enjoy a feast of food brought in by the parents.

If you are in the area of the church, come enjoy some fun, flight or feast.

Elieen is our new aide. She is WOUNDERFULL!!!

Happy Thanksgiving from PWNS staff.

Prayer Group

We meet to unite in prayer, our meetings vary in locations and last approximately one hour. Requests for prayers can be made to Janet Freeman or Betty Favorite. Please contact Janet for details.

jfree930@aol.com

{prayer: the original wireless connection }

Buy Stamps! We still have US Postage stamps available for purchase. Each purchase adds to the Deacons Christmas Shopping bank account. Contact Carole, poklinkowski@hotmail.com or the office with inquires. Thank You.

CHURCH STAFF
Transitional Pastor

Steve Braden

revsbb91@gmail.com

Church Secretary

Debra Leonard

Debrafpcmishawaka@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Joan Horvath

Joanfpcmishawaka@gmail.com

Organist Michael Duryea

mduryea@nd.edu

Custodian Ken Vargo

just give a shout!

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

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

Financial Secretary hours: Monday & Thursday 8 — 11:30 a.m.

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



mail address: First Presbyterian Church-Mishawaka

P.O. Box 744

Mishawaka, Indiana 46546-0744

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



Church Officers and Committees

The Session: Pam Camren,
 Mary Ann Dentino, John Martz,
 Stan 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

Christian Education: Darlene Seufert

Finance: Stan May, Chair

Mission and Evangelism:

Mary Ann Dentino, Chair

Nominating: Dave Sulak, Chair
 (Elder)

Personnel: Bruce McClure, Chair

Presbyterian Women: Darlene
 Siefert and Teresa Primmer

PWNS Board: John Rice, Chair

Special Gifts: Sue Rice, acting chair

Stewardship: Ron May, Chair

Worship and Music: Pam Camren, Chair

Book Club: Judy Green

Prayer Chain: Lynett Heritz

Scrap Booking: Brittany Rice

Bill's Bicycle: Bill Bellairs has expressed his appreciation to the congregation for fixing up his bicycle after it was hit by a car. The repair work (new rear wheel and sprocket, bottom bracket, brakes, tires, and thorough servicing) was done in Elkhart by Steve Peterson's (son of Jim Peterson) bicycle shop. Bill was also provided with a new helmet and a safety vest. He has enjoyed being back on his bike!



Thank You from the Duryea's

Dear brothers and sisters of FPCM,
 We are both very thankful for your generous gifts to us on the occasion of our wedding, and quite taken aback. Many thanks for thinking of us and making our wedding even more special. Peace be with you all!
 Michael and Shaina Duryea

The family of Suzanne Van DeSompele gratefully appreciate your kind expression of sympathy. The Members of First Presbyterian Church have always shown their deep understanding and kindness so thank you so much for your donation to Hospice in the memory of mother. Hospice took such great care of her in her last days and we are so grateful for all of their kindness.

The Van DeSompele Family, Jayne Wurz, PWNS lead teacher.

Happy Thanksgiving



BAG HUNGER Thanksgiving Dinners

During November we will be assembling Thanksgiving dinner baskets for families at Battell School who would otherwise be unable to celebrate this holiday. A list of items needed will be found in the bulletin in the month of November. Vouchers for Turkey or ham will also be provided in the basket plus a pumpkin pie. Help with assembling the boxes or delivering them to the families will also be needed. Thank you in advance for putting a smile on these families faces. Mission Committee

**ALL SAINTS' DAY
OBSERVANCE**

We will be remembering loved ones who have passed on to glory with God during the last year.

Our Church is going Green with Chuck's help, he has retrofitted 84 light fixtures in the new section of the church. This will save us 30% on our electric bill this year.

**Canticle Ringers**

Will be practicing Wednesday evenings in preparation of the prelude on Christmas Eve. If you have the time, all willing members will be welcomed. The dates are November 5, 12, 19, 26, December 3, 10, and 17 at 7 pm.

Contact Judy, mtcgjag@aol.com

WEDDING MINISTRY ORIENTATION COMING SOON

If you think you might be interested in (or just plain curious about) assisting with this outreach ministry to help fund the church operating budget, earning a few \$ for yourself while helping couples have a smoothly run wedding day, plan to attend the orientation on **November 9** after fellowship time in the small dining room. Your attendance will be for information only and not a commitment to helping. If you plan to attend, please let Pam Camren or Lynett Heritz know so that we have adequate materials prepared. As of now, we have no interested couples but want to be prepared to share our information and to be ready when inquiries come along. It is a real service to couples and the church! Come and learn more.



All are welcome to a **choral concert** at **St. Jude's Catholic Church** on **Sunday, November 16th** at **4:00pm**. The program includes works by **Allegri**, **Finzi**, and **Bach**. I love to share with people in the community really good music, and this is happening, or *re-happening music*. Attendance is free, and there are no tickets required! The choir is absolutely fantastic!! Of course many of them are friends and colleagues. Join us if you can, Michael Duryea

TEA DELIVERY Thank you to all that helped with the Mission Tea. It takes many hands to put on an event. We appreciate the time that you so willingly gave to prepare the delicious items for the Tea and the time given to help with the clean-up. There was a lot of fellowship taking place as the dishes were being washed. The tea ordered from the Mission Tea Fundraiser will be ready for delivery on November 16. It will arrive in plenty of time for Christmas giving.

Book Club's next meeting will be on November 16 at the Reif's home. Two books will be discussed, Pilate's Wife by Antoinette May and The Fault in Our Stars by John Green. We will start at 2 pm and the meeting will last about 1 hour or so. Our next read is the The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd on the 14th of December at Judy Green's home. There is always room for one more, so come join us. You can contact Judy at mtcgjag@aol.com or check out the information board in the foyer. Thank you.

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. I will provided the set-up, clean-up, drinks, and tableware. Sharing snacks and ideas with each others projects makes this evening go to quickly. Feel free to bring any type of project that you have to work on...remembering Christmas is just around the corner.

The last date for 2014 is Friday, November 21st from 6 pm to 11 pm, so mark your calendar! I looking forward to seeing you there, Brittany Rice scrap.brittany@comcast.net

ALMOST TIME FOR BAGPIPES AND TEA!

Our annual observance of St. Andrew's Day will be on **Sunday, November 23** with bagpipe music, Scottish prayers in Chris Sneddon's wonderful Gaelic tongue and of course shortbreads and tea during fellowship time. Honorably Retired Teaching Elder Steven Mullin will be our preacher of the day as Pastor Braden takes the day off. Steve has served at Plymouth PC, Memorial PC, South Bend and Pierceton PC from which he retired. He has recently served as interim for Ligonier PC. Steve has been active in the work of the presbytery for many years serving in various capacities. He is looking forward to sharing this special day with us.

Poinsettias!

It's that time of year again. Our sanctuary is always so beautiful during the Advent season, all decked out with the Christmas tree, garlands, bows, wreaths, and many gorgeous poinsettias. Please consider donating a poinsettia in memory of a loved one or honor someone or a special event in your life.

Regular size are \$10 and extra large are \$15. Please make sure that you get your order and money to Debra by November 24. Make the check out to FPC, with "poinsettia" on the memo line.. I will be purchasing the poinsettias on November 29 so they will be ready for the first Sunday in Advent.



Homecoming Sunday December 7

On December 7, we are having a special Homecoming service, followed by a luncheon. We want to extend a special invitation to our members and friends to join us for a festive worship and meal.

Save the Date! Mark your calendars for a wonderful Advent event on December 7th. Deacons will be sponsoring an Advent dinner following worship, complete with special entertainment. This will be a wonderful way to usher in the Christmas season with your church family. More details to follow!

Only 55 shopping days till Christmas! For many of us this statement means decorating a tree, baking goodies, shopping and wrapping gifts and planning parties. For many hardworking families trying to make ends meet, it means finding extra funds to buy gifts or going without. For almost 30 years, the Deacons have been organizing an event to help these families buy gifts and provide much needed clothing for area children.

Deacon's Christmas Shopping at JC Penny's will take place December 13th 8:00 a.m. We are requesting names of 50 children from School City Mishawaka. We need your help with both monetary donations and your time. Money should be in by Dec. 7th so we know how much money is available to spend. Mark your check "Deacon's Christmas Shopping". We also need about 15 people to help the parents shop. Please sign-up on the Clip Board and plan on meeting us on the 2nd floor of Penny's @ 7:45 a.m. by the elevators.

November 2014

Please remember when the preschool is in session
to not park in east parking lot. Thank You.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 no Tai Chi
2 *FALL BACK CLOCKS* <i>All Saint's Day</i> communion Ushers: Ethan & Janet Freeman Worship Leader: Chris Wukovits	3	4 V O T E	5 7pm Canticle ringers	6	7	8 Tai Chi 9:30 to 1 Westminster Hall
9 Ushers: Bill Bellairs & Gordon Reif Worship Leader: Lynett Heritz	10	11 Veteran's Day	12 7pm Canticle ringers	13	14 Newsletter Deadline	15 Tai Chi 9:30 to 1 Westminster Hall
16 Ushers: Dan Bruner & Dick Dentino Worship Leader: Chuck Wukovits Session 11:15 am Book Club 2 pm	17 Elizabeth Circle 7 pm	18	19 7pm Canticle ringers	20 Ruth Circle 7 pm	21 Esther Circle 1:30 pm Scrapbook Club 6-11pm fellowship hall	22 No Tai Chi
23 ST. ANDREWS DAY Ushers: Neil Seufert & Teresa Primmer Worship Leader: Stan May HANGING OF GREENS	24	25	26 PWNS Feast Party 10 am  Ringers 7pm	27 Office closed 	28 Office Closed	29 Tai Chi 9:30 to 1 Westminster Hall
30 ADVENT Ushers: Judy Sulak & Ethan DeMaegd Worship Leader: Darlene Seufert Advent Class						

11/1/14 2am Turn back time...11/21/14 last Scrap/craft of 2014...11/27 & 28/14 office closed...12/6/14 Breakfast with Santa...12/7/14 Treble Clef Singers concert 4:30 pm
