

First Pres + Habitat for Humanity = REALM opportunities

We at First Pres are fortunate to have a long history of involvement with Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity, and this year we have special connections to two build projects — the Memorial/Thrivent Build and Women Build.

Memorial/Thrivent Build

The Memorial/Thrivent Build is a zero-lot home that will serve two partner families. The families share a common experience: they are both Congolese refugees who escaped a war-torn country in hopes of a better life in the United States. They have been enjoying working together on building the structure that will house both of their families. One of the families is part of our First Family: Milord Mahinga, Syphoriana Nyabenda, and their three children, Flint (13), Leticia (5), and Israel (2), are excited for the opportunity to be homeowners once the Memorial Build is complete. They can hardly believe their good fortune after enduring so many years of turmoil and suffering in refugee camps.

Funding for the project comes from community members who have made contributions in memory of their loved ones and a generous sponsorship from Thrivent Financial. One of the most positive aspects of a Memorial Build is to see a pile of boards grow into a home for a deserving family, knowing that this home would not have been possible without folks remembering their loved ones. There will be a brief memorial service at the home dedication ceremony recognizing those who have been memorialized through contributions to the home, and all gifts will be included in the dedication program. This home is currently under construction in southeast Iowa City; volunteers are needed.

Jan & Jim Down and Judy & Jim Houghton, long-time Habitat supporters who both lost a child prematurely, are volunteer co-chairs of the Memorial Build.

Contributions will help the project reach its \$50,000 goal and would very much be appreciated. Donors who give \$150 or more will have the opportunity to inscribe a brick with a message of their choice that will be placed in the gardenscape of the Memorial/Thrivent Build home.

For more info and to keep up with progress on the build, visit <http://www.iowavalleyhabitat.org/content/memorial-build-0>.

Women Build

The Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity's 7th annual Women Build project is in honor of long-time Johnson County volunteer Mary Palmberg, who is also a long-time FPC member.

The goal of each year's Women Build is to raise at least \$50,000 in local contributions to help cover the cost of constructing a new home for a family in need and address our area's shortage of affordable housing. Women Build, as with all Habitat builds, relies heavily on volunteers to reduce labor costs, and is designed to empower women who may not feel comfortable volunteering at a male-dominated construction site, although male volunteers are also very welcome. Construction of the home will begin in August; the home will be located on Prairie du Chien Road in Iowa City. This year's Women Build project will help a family from Sudan with four kids under age 15—all currently living in a two-bedroom apartment.

Enjoy lots more info and updates here: <http://marypalmbergbuild.com/>

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Dear sisters and brothers of First Presbyterian Church,

The peace of the Lord be with you!

The last two weeks have created joy, anguish, and confusion. As Americans, we face cultural crises that question the limits of our political and moral affections for persons who are African-American, and/or gay; similarly, we are challenged in our tolerance for those who dislike persons who are African-American, and/or gay. Flags boasting the Stars and Bars show up on many media sites, while an equal or greater number of sites are bathed in rainbows. Recriminations are flying all around.

In all this there is a comforting word of the Lord, I believe.

Some years ago, while working on my dissertation, I read an article written by a gay Black man [Griffin, H. (2000). Their own received them not: African-American lesbians and gays in black churches. *Theology & Sexuality: The Journal of the Institute for the Study of Christianity & Sexuality*, 12, 88-100]. The author contended that the reason so much African-American religion is so conservative and anti-gay is because it is rooted in imposed plantation white religion. He ended the article by calling on Black pastors to throw off the shackles of oppressive White definitions of Christian faith and find solidarity, in the midst of a shared oppression, with

persons who are gay.

The gentleman had much to say, and persons might disagree with his premise. Yet one lesson that struck me was that nobody would choose to experience his level of pain as a matter of lifestyle. While currently there is much sound and fury — including politicians threatening state-wide resistance to gay marriage that is too reminiscent of the 20th-century defenses of school segregation — it might be useful for us Christians to breathe deeply and borrow from our own tradition of peace. Specifically, there are choices that God doesn't give us and choices that God does give us, and it is the latter that call for moral discernment and action.

First, there are those choices we do not have. You and I are gifted with many traits. Due to genetics, parental hormones, in utero and post-partum experience, and environment, I have a beige-colored skin tone, left-handedness, height, a position along the lines between male and female (neither Sylvester Stallone nor Taylor Swift, but something between), and much else, for good or ill. I have had few conscious choices along the way when it comes to some of the most



fundamental aspects of my being.

Furthermore, sometimes in a way inconsistent with giftedness and certainly apart from our personal choosing, our culture chooses to make race, gender and other assignments to us. These assignments are based on a series of considerations that have more to do with whom we are perceived to be, or whom it is believed that we should be, rather than on who we actually are. Often these choices made by culture run counter to our personal experience of whom God made us to be, causing us to bend like Gumby to fit in.

In my experience as a pastor, it is only when we deal with people as unique individuals that some of the culturally imposed blinders begin to drop away and we learn to refrain from categorical judgments. This is not some mistaken bout of liberality: This is realism on the level taught by Jesus. He met sinners like us, where they were, and asked questions that invited them to step without fear into the light of God's love. He does the same for us.

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FPC involvement

Special offerings will be held on upcoming Sundays at FPC for both build projects ... for the Thrivent/Memorial Build on July 26, and for Women Build on Sept 13. Meet and visit with the families during fellowship time after these services. And anyone wishing to donate at any time may send contributions directly to Habitat:

Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity
2401 Scott Blvd. SE
Iowa City, IA 52240

On the memo line of the check, please indicate Memorial Build or Women Build.

There are many additional ways that First Family members can support these projects. Of course there are lots of

construction-related jobs for volunteers to do on the build sites, many that don't require advanced construction skills! And the list below is a sampling of additional tasks that will benefit the project and the family:

- clean and organize the job site and tool trailer
- paint and landscape (we cannot schedule painting and landscaping for specific days as projected dates change erratically due to the schedule of trades companies, weather, volunteer turnout, etc.)
- provide snacks, lunch or drinks; perhaps serve the refreshments at the work site
- greet and sign in volunteers at the start of a shift
- take photos and video of volunteers and build progress to be used on our

website and social media·

- decorate the studs of a new home with blessings or messages to the partner family
- build birdhouses, flower boxes, make key chains or simple picture frames; all these things can be made with scraps from the work site
- paint doors and baseboards off-site
- gather housewarming items — cleaning supplies, plants, towels, etc. — and present them at the dedication of the home

For further details on these and many other options for contributing to these projects, please contact the volunteer coordinator at the Habitat office: volunteer@iowavalleyhabitat.org or 319-337-8949.

6 PLUS REGROUPING

Question: What is 6 Plus?

Answer: At least 6 people who meet together regularly (usually once a month) for fellowship and activities of the group's choosing—dinner at one another's homes or restaurants, movies together and conversation afterward, concerts—the group's activities are yours to create.

Question: How do I get involved?

Answer: Sign up in Fellowship Hall by September 1 at the Groups of Six Plus table. After September 1, groups will be created and you will be contacted with information about the first gathering.

Question: Who can be involved?

Answer: All adults are welcome to sign up. Some groups will be multi-generational while others will focus on a certain stage of life.

Question: Why should I become involved?

Answer: It's an opportunity to learn more about the people you worship with, make connections, meet new friends, form relationships.

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up." ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:11

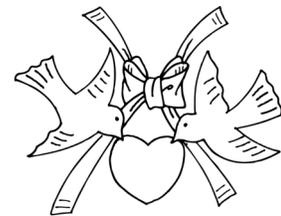


The Shepherds Program

One of the less visible caring ministries at First Presbyterian Church is the volunteer work performed by our Shepherds program. Deacons and non-Deacons are matched with an at-home member who is not able to attend worship services or participate in church activities as much as they would like because of physical issues or other reasons. The primary mission of the Shepherds program is to ensure that these people know that they are not forgotten and that they are an important part of the church community. Shepherds contact at-home members on a regular basis, usually by phone or in person, for good conversation and to see if there is any assistance the church can provide. The frequency and nature of the contact is determined by the needs and wishes of the at-home member.

The Deacons are looking for volunteers to serve as Shepherds. To be added to the volunteers list, please contact the church office at 351-2660. Pauline Miller and Sue Van Duyn-Phipps serve as coordinators. Please also let us know if you are already in regular contact with an at-home member or know someone who could benefit from this program.

Deacons Bench



50th or 60th ANNIVERSARY

At least six couples of First Presbyterian Church are celebrating their 50th or 60th wedding anniversary this year and will host Fellowship Hour on Sunday, August 30. If this is also your 50th or 60th anniversary year and you'd like to co-host, please contact Anita Burnett (burnett.anita1@gmail.com; 325-7640) or Toni DeRyke (tyderyke@q.com; 338-7687) by Sunday, August 2.



Applications are now being accepted for the **Lucille Burianek Scholarship – deadline is August 10.**

Sadie May, trustee of The Lucille Burianek Trust, has announced a new scholarship for FPC members. "A scholarship like this seems to be a good way to honor and remember Lucille Burianek, who was a teacher and longtime member of this church," says Sadie.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The applicant must be a member of First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City, Iowa.
- The applicant must be an active participant in FPC youth programs.
- The applicant must have graduated from high school in 2015.
- The applicant must have a minimum GPA of 3.0.
- Application must be made using the form available in the Church office.

The application and all supportive documentation must be postmarked or delivered to the Church office (2701 Rochester Ave., Iowa City, Iowa 52245) no later than August 10, 2015.

All applicants will be notified no later than the last Friday in August. One or more scholarships up to \$1,000 will be awarded.

Oglesby Scholarship Recommended to The University of Iowa

*~by Connie Richardson,
Endowment & Memorial Committee chair*

Four young members have been recommended to the University of Iowa as Oglesby Scholarship recipients for the 2015-16 academic year. They are Lauren Dengler, Tayler Foster, Ariel Soemadi, and Hannah Titus. All four are or will be attending the University of Iowa this coming year.

In 2002, William and Sharon Oglesby, members of FPC, made a gift to The University of Iowa Foundation to establish an endowed scholarship for deserving UI students who are members of First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City. This year's scholars were recommended to the University based their application to the church as FPC members and their GPA. The scholarship committee was able to recommend a grant of \$1,250 each, based on the generosity of the Oglesbys' gifts to the fund.

As with other endowed funds that benefit First Presbyterian, additional gifts are encouraged and welcome. Funds open to additional gifts are:

At First Presbyterian

- Unrestricted Fund
- Brown Fund for the Columbarium
- Building Fund
- Burianek Fund (unrestricted)
- Lind Family Fund for Pasrur
- Massey Fund for Pasrur
- Oglesby Fund for Media and Library
- Updegraff Organ Fund
- Piro Fund for Fellowship

At the University of Iowa Foundation

- Oglesby Scholarship Fund for First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City

At the Community Foundation of Johnson County

- FPC Friends Fund (unrestricted)
- Summerwill Fund for Handbells at FPC
- Yager Fund for Gardens at FPC

For questions about scholarships or others funds, please contact Pastor Sam or Connie Richardson, Endowment and Memorial Committee chair, 319-541-1204.

First's Family

If you have a news item for the First's Family News, please submit it for publication by August 3 to tammy.foster@firstpreswoacity.org. Thank you!

July 15-30

7/15 Erica Dodge	7/24 Joe Zajicek
7/16 Debbie Beermann	7/25 Michael Boysen
7/16 Graham Flitz	7/25 Peggy Bykowsky
7/16 Esther Viksten	7/25 Courtney Hurt
7/18 Frank Roberts	7/25 Dwight Miller
7/19 Rachel Edwards	7/25 Rachel Miller
7/21 John Morgan	7/27 Kitty Forsythe
7/21 Valerie Soemadi	7/28 Joseph Dunkle
7/22 Kayla Martin	7/29 Wayne Patton
7/22 Sarah Swisher	7/30 Brenda Dodge
7/23 Gloria Mutula	7/30 Grant Forsythe
7/23 Glory Mutula	7/30 Connie Richardson
7/24 Angel Tuliza	

August 1-15

8/1 Rhonda Barr	
8/1 Janet Cochran	
8/1 Anne Dengler	
8/1 Aaron Miller	
8/1 Greyson Saunders	
8/4 Henry Edwards	
8/5 Katie Maher	
8/5 Nick Thedens	8/8 Janet Wicks
8/6 Rose Kraus	8/11 Cedric Lee
8/6 Sally Rickey	8/12 Thomas Boysen
8/7 Margaret Ketterer	8/12 Estyl Breazeale
8/7 Louise Larew	8/12 Nile Franz
8/8 Dick Feddersen	8/14 Shay Raffensperger
8/8 Nancy Powers	8/14 Judy Terry
8/8 Emilia Thedens	8/15 Gary Olson



Wish These Friends a
"Happy Birthday!"

Congratulations!



- ◆ **Eloise Alice Schulein** was born to **Kate and Bob Schulein** and sister Hattie. Eloise is granddaughter to **Debbie Beermann** and **Dave Van Dusseldorp** and great-granddaughter to **Sharon Van Dusseldorp**.
- ◆ **Jocelyn (Jocie) Charlotte Bergman Klein** was born on July 2 to **Ruth Bergman and Benjamin Klein**. Jocie is the first grandchild of **Marv and Darlene Bergman**.

Make new connections and rekindle old connections.

Are you feeling a bit disconnected during these busy summer months? Join us on August 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 for a time of conversation and sharing from 9:15 to 9:45 in Coover Lounge. Each Sunday will be different, so come to as many as you are able to attend. It will be a fun time of getting to know one another better. Listen to pieces of others' story and share pieces of yours. Everyone is welcome: young, old, new members, old members, visitors, family, and friends. Judy Whitford will be facilitating this time of sharing.



Known to have been Hospitalized:

Al Wicks, Jean James, Chitoka Guerrero-Webb, Ann Finley, Dwight Shaffer, Duane Thompson, Kathy Clifton, Kathy Smith, Andy Piro, and Frank McConnell.



A Memorial Service for **George Minot, Jr.** (George's father) was

held at Lensing Funeral and Cremations Service, on Saturday, July 4. We offer our sympathy to George and Deb Minot and family.

We extend our sympathy to **Jack Perkins** on the death of his wife, **Ruth**, who passed away July 1. The service for Ruth was held July 6 at First Presbyterian and led by Pastor Sam Massey.

Take Action on the Bakken Pipeline

~by Becky Ross, Justice Team member

Last fall a group of Iowa City women went to several information meetings about the Bakken Pipeline. This proposed pipeline, if approved, will run through 18 Iowa counties from the northwest corner of the state to the southeast corner. The pipeline will pass under many rivers and streams along its path. It will transport crude oil from the Bakken oil reserves in North Dakota to Patoka, Illinois. From there it could connect with a pipeline to the Gulf Coast for storage or for refinement and export, or reach East Coast markets by rail. Some argue that this will take the crude oil off the rails through Iowa, but it simply means that they will be moving more oil in every way possible.

Dakota Access, LLC is a private company that also wants to

take land by eminent domain if a land owner does not agree to their terms. A recent article in the *Des Moines Register* stated that they had 60% of the land secured. Activists challenge that number, saying online records show far fewer easement purchases have been recorded.

In this day of worries about clean water, we need to be aware of oil and chemical spills that can upset our environment, kill wildlife and pollute our water. If you would like to know more about the Bakken Pipeline and learn what you can do about it, please visit nobakken.com.

Click on "Act Now" at the top of the site and it gives you some simple steps you can take now.

(Pastor's page continued from page 2)

In Christian faith, we can safely presume that God saves us as we are, with even faith coming as an undeserved gift given to us prior to our consciousness of choice. Yet membership has responsibilities as well as privileges. Having received the gifts of God, we still have choices to make.

For example, rather than dividing into racially based congregations, God wants us to be one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28). This quest for racial reconciliation in America is a core value for God that is meant to be inspirational and perspirational (although not legalistically compulsive, as if our salvation depends upon it). Wouldn't it have been wonderful if Dylan Roof had been unable to find a congregation or a Bible study made up of only Black people or only White people? Racially reconciled congregations and Bible studies should emerge from Jesus' prayer that all of his disciples find unity (John 17:21), that is, when Jesus' disciples choose to take his Lordship seriously. Skin color comes as a wonderful gift: How we honor it is a moral choice of biblical proportions.

Likewise, when it comes to questions of sexual relationships, a core value is freedom from sexual impulse for the sake of putting energy into self-less, empowering love: the energizing love of God (Matthew 19:12). To choose singleness is to put all of one's gifts at God's disposal. Yet for those of us who would be dangerous without an intimate partner, God calls us to choose marriage (1 Corinthians 7; the apostle Paul). God also bids us to remain faithful in marriage so as to be free for loving, non-sexual, non-coercive, and non-manipulative service to the world. Faithfulness to our commitments is so important that adultery and idolatry in the Bible are equally considered to be morally bankrupt.

We could have a long conversation about what makes male and female, and what makes gender. We could focus on procreation, although science has made the need for a partner moot. We could have a long conversation about the genome project, and what gives one person the skin of a pale fish and someone else far more luxuriant shading. We could examine our interesting differences, and highlight them to the point of mutual discomfort. Yet I doubt that for God any of these are deal-breakers. I believe it is sin when we allow these conversations to break our relationships so that we don't have to deal with those who disagree with us.

In my estimation, three of God's transcendent core values are

1. God's choice to save us;
2. God's calling and our choice to be united in Christ Jesus in spite of our many differences; and
3. God's calling and our choice to take measures to practice a disciplined love in the world free of the manipulative power and coercion often associated with sexual activity unrestrained by commitment to another person.

So ... from my perspective, the news of the past few weeks has left unchanged the foundational, eternal good news and calling of Jesus Christ. Some may rejoice, some may fear because of current events and yet in Christ, the demands of love have not changed and we are still in the process of realizing them through our choices. So let us pay attention to him and to them.

Blessings, your pastor,

Sam

Who is that person sitting in the pew next to you?

Joan “Joey” Workman Summerwill

~by Sherry Lohman

Have you ever had that experience where you recognize a face, but can't quite place it?

That happened with me when I met up with Joey. I knew I had seen her before, someplace besides church. But it wasn't until she mentioned she volunteers at Mercy Hospital that I finally made the connection.

Joey's been serving there for over fifty years. In fact, she was one of the first to help raise money and organize the Mercy Guild. Joey is modest. She told me she had a part in initiating the Guild. But when I went on-line (Mercy's website) to gather more information, I found an interview featuring Joey and the beginnings of the Guild. Believe it or not, they started raising money with small bake sales. Their first one garnered a whopping \$50. But never underestimate the power of a small group of caring women, making a huge difference in the lives of others. Their efforts to make the Guild a success have made over 2.5 million dollars to help serve others in all kinds of ways.

Of course, we all know that Mercy is Catholic. That didn't stop Joey, and it shouldn't stop any of us, in serving others. What's amazing is that Joey soon became the president of the Guild, and yes, everyone knew she was Presbyterian! One's denomination really doesn't matter when we are serving God and serving others!

Perhaps her maiden name (Workman) preceded this ambitious woman?!

Joey wasn't the first born in the family. A sister preceded her by a couple of years. But Joey was the first baby born in Fairfield Hospital in 1920. Her family lived in the small town of Keosauqua, Iowa. Her father was in real estate and managed nearby farm property, employing others to help. At a young age, Joan tagged along behind one of the workers, who called her “Joey,” and the name stuck.

Another woman, Sarah, who helped care for the children but acted more like another mother, may have impacted Joey's life more than she knew. When the great Iowa thunderstorms came rumbling over the countryside, Sarah would sit the children down on the old sofa, where they would watch the thunder and lightning. Rather than fearing the storms, they witnessed them in their wondrous power. (Sounds like Pentecost, to me!) Joey can't think of anything she is really afraid of.

Joey grew up in depression times of the 1920s and 30s and was the last of six cousins who were all sent through college by the generosity of an uncle. She went

to the U of I, finishing in 1942 with a degree in business. She had met her future spouse, Ben, at a dance in Iowa City, but they both were determined to finish school before getting married. That took place in 1946 in an Army Chapel in Macon, GA, where Ben was stationed, serving as a Lt. in the Army. Ben joined the ROTC, and after a year of marriage was stationed in New Guinea for three years. During that time, Joey lived with both sides of their families.

Eventually, Ben and Joey began their family, adding a son and two daughters — all local (Iowa City and Cedar Rapids), along with four grandchildren. They have lived in Iowa City all of their lives. Ben passed away in 1991. The city has changed considerably over the years, and a number of friends are missed, as well. Joey remembers cornfields where City High resides and gravel roads and Rochester Hill, “the worst gravel road in the world!”

Joey grew up in the Congregational Church but joined the Presbyterian Church in 1946 because so many of their family were members. They were members when the church met at Old Brick, where they were Deacons and Elders. With a smile on her face, Joey recalls the time she and a few others decorated the outside of the church for Christmas. You would have thought they were plotting to steal the church bell, with the tall ladder they rigged up against the side of the building — just so they could get the decorations to the top. They were told not to do that again!

If you enjoy the handbells, you can thank Joey for helping to get that started, too. She and Ben gave the first three octaves and have contributed more to provide for maintenance, music and accessories.

She is grateful for the church; I sensed some pride when she spoke of the youth, Darlene, and Sam when they come at Christmas to sing for Oaknoll.

Her philosophy is, “Try to get along. Live and experience life.” She doesn't just talk the talk. She's walked the walk ... unafraid, and jubellant!



May Session Highlights

-submitted by Nancy Weber, Clerk of Session

The Session met May 19 in Coover Lounge at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Sam called the meeting to order and lit the Christ candle. Elder Dale Kraus led us in devotions and prayer.

Two recent births were noted: Calvin Coker Martin, born to Kayla McKibben and Travis Martin, April 16; and Matthew Reed Morgan, born to Becca and Brent Morgan, April 24.

Session accepted the removal from membership of Jan Erickson.

Received the financial report, prepared by Larry Bruner. Connie Richardson and Larry reviewed accounts and provided clarifications.

A clarification of the Burianek Trust was requested. The trust is intended for the church, not specifically for women and/or children. Sadie May is the new trustee of the trust.

Approved the minutes of the April 21, 2015 stated Session meeting, and the May 3, 2105 Session meeting welcoming new members.

Approved the June 6, 2015 HJPC wedding at FPC officiated by Pastor Donis, marrying Jean dieu MAFIRIRA and Nadine SHIMWE.

Permission was given by Session for Thein-trang Pham to solicit donations at FPC for her Vietnam Agent Orange project to initially provide funding for clothing and food for children at a rehabilitation center in Dinh Quan. Thein is one of our FPC nursery workers, and has also been involved with the Mom's Interfaithful Fellowship. Thein will be traveling to Vietnam in June.

Approved Rebecca Blair as a guest preacher (all other summer preachers were previously approved). She will also serve communion August 9, 2015.

Pastor Sam distributed a report concerning a Holy Jerusalem Church conference being held June 12-14, 2015. There is a possible need for housing for approximately 100 Africans. Though they have not asked for help with housing, Pastor Sam is asking for permission to ask FPC congregation to house attendees. It is a very big deal for

the HJC to be able to host this conference. They hope to raise money from this conference for an orphanage. Elder John Barr would like to see an FPC elder presence during the time they will be in the church. Elder Barr asks elders to let him know when they can take a turn.

Approved Servanthood's proposal to fund up to \$1747 for Chitoka Guerrero-Webb to attend the Princeton Black Theology and Leadership Institute from July 11-18, 2015. (Chitoka is one of twenty applicants to be accepted to this Institute and it is part of Chitoka's preparation for discerning her call to become a minister in the Presbyterian Church.)

Approved, from Support Ministry, the following items to be added to a future capital funds campaign yet to be planned:

Approved funding for item #1:

1. Replace parking lot at \$65,000, for reasons of safety.
 - a. Run water to the shed at \$2,500 to ensure plants and trees survive in Kobler Memorial Meditation Garden. (This will be cost effective if done at the time of the new parking lot.)
 - b. Run electricity to the shed at \$2,000 to ensure adequate maintenance of Kobler Garden. (This will be cost effective if done at the time of the new parking lot.)

Approved funding for item #2:

2. Provide pew footings at \$5,000, for reasons of safety. There was a brief discussion concerning the state of the pews, and the cost of replacing them. The possibility of replacing the pews with chairs was mentioned. Session approved asking Buildings and Grounds to talk with Health Ministry concerning the idea of replacing the pews with chairs. Session approved allowing B&G to address the issue of the pews, and to remove a pew to see if fixing the pews is possible.

Approved funding for item #3:

3. Run an elevator to all three floors (at the cost of \$253,000) to be more effective in our ability to implement

programs and ministries for all members and visitors. There was a brief discussion concerning the placement of an elevator.

Approved funding for item #4:

4. Replace the boiler and heat distribution system, when it is needed, at the currently estimated amount of \$400,000 to plan for the inevitable demise of the current system.

The total project costs, recommended by Support Ministry to be funded through a capital campaign, is \$728,000.

Session approved a campaign team be named to plan and implement fundraising for the above projects, and the projects be funded in the above order: 1, 3, and then 4. It was approved to refer the forming of a campaign team back to Support Ministry for recommendations to be brought back to Session.

A motion from Worship & Celebration Ministry was approved altering our communion service, beginning at the Pentecost service on May 24, 2015, so that all communion will be served by intinction, and will include one pair of servers at the chancel stairs offering bread and a tray of glass cups for those who prefer this form of presentation of the sacrament, while continuing to offer the communion elements on trays to worshippers who wish to remain in the pews.

An additional motion from Worship and Celebration was approved, accepting updated guidelines for weddings, which now reflect recent changes in Presbyterian policy.

Pastor Sam reported that Sherry Lohman will preach July 5, in case he attends the Javid wedding in Pennsylvania. Others slated to preach are:

July 12	Gary Burnett
July 19	Paul Akin
July 26	George Minot
August 2	Warren Jensen
August 9	Rebecca Blair
August 16	Sherry Lohman

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(May Session Highlights continued from page 8)

A report, distributed and reviewed by REALM Planning leader Elder Carol Ulch, concerned seeking greater communication between elders and deacons, and noted an elder/deacon retreat is planned for June 23, 2015, at 6

p.m., to begin the REALM goal-setting process.

Session approved adjourning with the sharing of joys and concerns, and Elder John Barr closed the meeting with prayer. The next meeting will be June 16, 2015, 7 p.m. in Coover Lounge.

June Session Highlights

-submitted by Nancy Weber, Clerk of Session

The session met June 16 in Coover Lounge at 7 p.m. Pastor Sam called the meeting to order, welcomed our guest, Sadie May, and lit the Christ candle. Elder Bob Youngquist led us in devotions and prayer.

The financial report, prepared by Larry Bruner, was received.

Approved minutes of the May 19, stated Session meeting and minutes of the June 14, special Session meeting welcoming Virginia Hall into membership.

Pastor Sam reported that the quantitative and qualitative observations found in the demographic and interview studies were sent out, and he encouraged Session members to read them before the REALM retreat Tuesday, June 23, 2015, i.e., to find a quiet place, listen to God, and let God speak to you through the studies. FPC staff and deacons are included in the planning process as well, as partners and collaborators. Our intention is to set goals and strategies.

Approved motion to invite the FPC staff to join session and deacons at the REALM retreat June 23.

Sadie May gave a moving statement concerning the responsibility she feels

as trustee of the Burianek Trust. Sam and Sadie toured the New Creations Church. The building has no air conditioning. Services are active and loud so the windows need to remain closed. Sadie proposed that FPC offer a matching gift of \$7K-\$10K to New Creations to install their AC. We are not looking at this as a charity, but to help them with fund raising if and when they formally request our help. The question was posed: Could the AC work be done this summer? Brandt H/AC will generate three versions of work that can be done. They said it could be completed this summer. New Creations worship service could possibly move downstairs until work is complete. They do have a mortgage on the building. Sadie will work with the New Creations staff.

A motion was passed in which we concurred, with our blessing, Sadie May sharing Burianek income as she sees appropriate with the New Creations Church.

Servanthood Ministry reported that \$2300 was collected toward costs of the community KoNec youth participants visiting various black colleges. A special offering of \$200 was raised toward the Agent Orange Project, and funding for Pastor Abel's

Lahore Naulakha church wall and gate is at about \$16,000, including funding from the Presbytery.

Outreach reported that the final 175th Commemoration Celebration Reunion Weekend will be held September 11-13, 2015. Elder Ann Grosscup distributed brochures about the event.

Building and Grounds reported that the broken pew footings are being replaced, now with oak. Help with installation is still needed.

Endowment and Memorial's Elder Ann Burton reported on the Oglesby scholarship, an endowment fund through the U of Iowa Foundation, funded by FPC members Bill and Sharon Oglesby. The four FPC youth members attending the U of Iowa are each awarded \$1250: Lauren Dengler, Tayler Foster, Ariel Soemadi, and Hannah Titus.

Ann Grosscup circulated a sign-up sheet for help with post-worship duties while Pastor Sam is away this summer.

Approved adjourning with sharing of joys and concerns, followed by prayer. Elder Ann Burton closed the meeting with prayer. The next meeting will be held August 18, 7 p.m. in Coover Lounge.

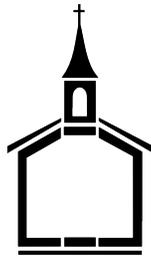
No Blood Drive in September

~by Toni DeRyke

There has been minimal response for the congregational Blood Drive for the past year, with only 5 donors in March. The Health Ministries Team has decided that it is not feasible to conduct a Blood Drive here in September, as had been planned. We will consider doing it again after the first of the year if there is interest shown by members of the congregation.

The need for blood is continuous, and we applaud those who donate at the DeGowin Blood Center at UIHC, and also at Mississippi Valley Blood Center located at 1801 2nd St in Coralville. If you donate blood at one of these locations, it can be credited to First Presbyterian Church if you request that service.

We hope that all who are able will continue to donate blood – a life-saving gift.



	Contributions	Misc. Income Building Use, Walker Trust, Bank interest, etc.	Total Income	Total Expenses	Over/Short
1st Quarter	\$137,627.13	\$39,242.66	\$176,869.79	\$161,323.84	\$15,545.95
2nd Quarter	\$138,063.94	\$533.53	\$138,597.47	\$144,637.30	-\$6,039.83
2015 Totals	\$275,691.07	\$39,776.19	\$315,467.26	\$305,961.14	\$9,506.12

Christian partner/relationship through mission

Sixty-five years ago, I became a permanent resident of Iowa City. At that time, there were less than a dozen established black families living in Iowa City. Of these, the Bell and Short families were the only permanent black members of First Presbyterian. As a result, First Presbyterian, as a congregation of so few nonwhites, has had little opportunity for exposure to the minority population in order to lay a foundation for Christian relationship with the minority congregation. Change has evolved whereby we do have the opportunity to become involved and therefore change the scenery. It is imperative that we devote our efforts to have an impact upon the lives, the well-being, and the justice of others in our midst who are unlike the majority.

Pastor Sam and I accepted a tour of New Creations International Church, hosted by Pastor Smith. New Creations is a black church having a congregation of 70 to 75 members: a maximum attendance of 100 with visitors.

The problem? No air-conditioning in the sanctuary. It is urgent that air-conditioning be acquired to enhance the comfort of the worship service and for membership growth. Because of the proximity to the neighbors, the number of worshipers present in the services — which are both active and loud (disturbing to some) — it is mandatory that the windows remain closed during services.

I ask for First Presbyterian Church’s response because I am an example of what has been accomplished when seeds have been sown and harvest is being reaped. First Church was (in conjunction with others) a village for the success of my children. I could not have had this occur alone. It was God, you and friends!

We, the black population of Iowa City, are here to stay. We’re not going away. Let us at First Presbyterian Church be first to

get to know a congregation unlike ourselves: one perhaps with few lawyers, few doctors, few professionals. Just people, many with low income, low education, some with various experience levels with the criminal justice system, having low self-esteem.

What better time for us than now, a time of need, to develop a Christian partner/relationship through mission, and to lift one another up?

Imagine a community contribution for First Presbyterian Church and an exciting faith journey for each of us. Let us believe and trust that God will do a mighty work, that we will live out his command to do unto others as we wish others to do unto us. Let us have unity in our church community and have it begin with us!

I’m not asking for charity to this congregation, nor control by our congregation; but I am asking for an opportunity to help guide them to success, such as mentoring in areas in which they have no experience, open doors that have long been closed, and just talk, even though it may be uncomfortable! In other words, I’m asking for assistance that excludes financial costs!

However, I’m also willing, as trustee of the Burianek Trust, and with concurrence of the session, to make a grant of \$7,000-\$10,000 to help the New Creations International congregation pay for a new air-conditioning system, with the understanding that, rather than paying back the Burianek money with money, they’ll pay us back by investing in their own mission and justice efforts and inviting us to help!

Thank you for listening,

Sadie May

175 Acts of Kindness project

*“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”
Matthew 25:40*

The 175 Acts of Kindness project involves covering the large open Bible display in the narthex with at least 175 examples of acts of kindness performed by or witnessed by all of us in the congregation.

When you see or do something kind or caring throughout the week, jot it down and the next time you're here in the building, write it on one of the papers by the display. **Don't put names on it; we want to focus on the deed rather than on the doer!**

No act is too small – a smile for a stranger on the street can make someone's day. And no act is too large – donating blood can be a lifesaver to a person you'll never meet.

So begin performing those acts of kindness, and don't forget to notice (and thank!) others who are also being kind.



Celebrating God's Faithfulness 175 years and beyond

There are many ways to get involved with the church's anniversary celebration. See below for just two ideas that everyone can participate in, and continue to read your bulletins and check out the information boards in Ryerson Fellowship Hall and the narthex for other opportunities. It's a party—join the fun!

Thanks to Patte Henderson, our new church pictorial directory project is completed and available to all. Now, as a part of our 175th anniversary celebration, we'd like to add a Faith Journey Directory to the picture directory. This will provide an opportunity for us to not only know each other's faces but to get to know a bit about what has impacted our lives and brought each of us to this place in our faith journey.

Some questions to get you started:

1. What is your first memory of God's presence in your life?
2. Have you experienced a time of struggle or suffering?
3. How did you experience God's presence then?
4. Who is God? What is your image of God?
5. Have you wrestled with forgiveness? How did you resolve those feelings?
6. What spiritual practices do you use to nurture your faith?
7. As your faith journey continues, what is next?



Draw a picture or write your responses to any or all of these questions, and share your responses by sending them to Mary Ellen Stamp at jmestamp@mchsi.com for inclusion in FPC's new Faith Journal Directory. We hope to complete this project by September, so please submit your responses by August 1. Questions, contact Mary Ellen at the address above or call the church office.

Fall Music and Arts Rehearsal Schedule



Beginning:

- August 26 at 6:00 p.m.
- August 29 All-Day Retreat
- August 30 at 11:40 a.m.
- August 31 at 7:30 p.m.
- September 17 at 6:45-7:30 p.m.
- September 17 at 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- September 20 at 9:00-9:20 a.m.

- Sanctuary Choir fall retreat and potluck
- JuBELLation Handbell Choir
- FPC Brass Group
- FPC Woodwind Ensemble
- Junior Choir (Gr. 2-6) in Creation Station
- Youth Choir (Gr. 7-12) in Choir Room
- Carol Choir (Pre-Gr. 2) in Creation Station

Fall Worship Schedule

Kick-Off Sunday, September 13

- 8:00 a.m. **Worship and Communion—Former Pastor Tom Brown preaching**
- 9:00 a.m. **Coffee and Pastries**
- 9:15 a.m. **Christian Education for all ages**
- 10:30 a.m. **Worship—Tom Brown preaching, David Richardson at the organ**
- 11:45 a.m. **Catered Luncheon—Gradye Parsons speaking**
- 2:00 p.m. **Hymn Festival**
- See p. 16 for more complete information
-

First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City, Iowa, Historical Segment

—by Dwight Miller

The tranquility of the 1950s gave way to the social unrest of the 1960s and 70s. Nowhere was this more keenly felt than on college campuses, most notably at Kent State University in Ohio. On May 4, 1970, four students were shot and killed and nine wounded by National Guardsmen. Iowa City, a less dramatic battleground, was contested by protest organizations within the student population, and authority represented by college officials and local, county, and state law enforcement. Riots in the business district resulted in broken store windows and the defacement of private and public property. The violence increased to such a degree that some in our congregation stayed overnight in the church in case the unrest spread there from the campus, which was only a block away. Student protest against: military recruiting on campus; the presence of Dow Chemical Company representatives offering employment to graduating students; support for revolutionary movements in Central and South America, particularly the Sandinista in Nicaragua; and US-supported coups in Chile and Peru, all played roles in fomenting protests and violence. At the peak of the disturbances before finals week, students were given the choice of staying on campus and taking examinations or leaving early and accepting the grades they had earned to that time. Many chose to leave early. The overarching element to these protests was the anti-war sentiment focused on the war in Vietnam and the incursion into Cambodia. Additional issues played significant protest roles, including revolutionary theology, civil rights, and anti-institutionalism.



This shift toward distrust of authority and established institutions played a significant role in declining student participation in Presbyterian and other mainline church activities. The decade between 1965 and 1975 marked a loss of 235 members; however the move to the new building on Rochester Avenue saw a striking increase in church school attendance and a 22 percent increase to an average of 380 attendance at Sunday services. New facilities and ready access to parking undoubtedly played significant roles in these statistics. By 1980 membership had rebounded to 945 from 882 in 1975.

FPC Book Club Invites You to Join Us



August 26 from Noon to 1pm
in Ryerson Fellowship Hall to discuss
The 2015 All Iowa Reads title,
My Name is Mary Sutter by Robin
Oliveira. Bring your lunch and share in
the fellowship. For more information,
contact Jan Walker at 358-6737

WHAT'S COMING UP FOR EQUIPPING MINISTRY?

EXPEDITION EQUIP!

Expedition Equip Planned for September through May
Pack your bags! It's almost expedition time! The Equipping Team is expanding existing routes and planning new adventures that will grow and deepen faith, strengthen relationships with Christ and others on the journey, and build foundations of justice, mercy, and faith.



Meet Your Expedition Leaders!

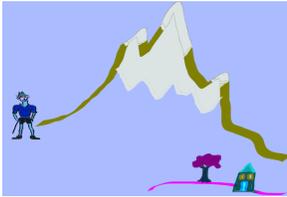


Amanda Edwards is a lifelong Presbyterian and native Iowan. Member of FPC since 2012, she is excited to share her passion for lifespan spiritual formation and Christian education and bring her expertise as a teacher and administrator into the church setting. Amanda will oversee equipping ministry programming from birth to adult. Focus areas include birth–grade 6 and family ministry opportunities, with increased attention to adult education. Amanda is a seminary student at Earlham School in Religion in the Ministry of Writing program. Amanda is often accompanied by her husband, David Dude, and their three children, Maren (9), Benjamin (6), and Kirsten (4). Amanda loves spending time outdoors and carves out time to read and swim.



Jim Cochrane has always been heavily involved with Christian Education. Having worked at a summer camp as counselor and later program director, he spent the 2015-2016 program year as FPC's Director of Christian Education. This year he is ecstatic to continue bringing his energy for ministry to FPC's programs. Jim will spend this year focusing on youth (middle school and high school) ministry while also collaborating with church and community members to bring a young adult ministry to this church and the surrounding Iowa City community. When he's not in the office planning new and exciting youth and young adult programs, you can find him either riding his bike on one of Iowa City's many nature trails or rock climbing either outside or in the gym.

Needles, Hooks and Yarn Summer Schedule
(meets once monthly June–August)
Mark your calendar to join us at Carol's 9–11a.m. on Saturday August 8.
(We will resume meeting weekly September 12.)
Questions or need help? call Carol Macon at 351-3847



Our 2015–16 expedition map is coming soon.



Until then:

Keep FPC in your plans for fall. Opportunities for learning and adventure will be available many days of the week, but **Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings** will include numerous choices for people young, old, and in between.

Mark your calendar

- Saturday, September 12: As part of FPC’s 175th anniversary celebration, we begin our trek together with a walk to FPC from Old Brick, followed by a church festival. This will be your chance to get a sneak peak at the journey ahead and plan your personalized expedition with the equipping team.
- Sunday, September 13: Our expedition begins! Get ready to embark on new adventures. There will be expanded choices for young and old.
- Thursday, September 17: Traditionally this has been a night just for junior and senior high youth. Stay on the lookout for new offerings for all ages!

Consider joining FPC’s Belay Team

In mountaineering speak, “belay” means to secure a person or rope to an anchor point. A belayer communicates and works with a climber to help them ascend and protect them if they fall. FPC’s Expedition Equip is a team effort, and we need your help! Consider being a:

- **Sherpa:** Support our young people as they grow and journey through life! Develop meaningful relationships with a few young people over the course of the program year, particularly on Sundays. Ideal for those looking to connect with young people grades preK–6. Sherpas also needed to support our youth in grades 7–8 as they prepare for confirmation.
- **Guide:** Plan and/or lead activities for children and youth preK–12. We can accommodate your level of expertise and experience—we’ll provide the tools and training you need and help match you with the right age group. Short and long-term opportunities available on Sunday mornings.
- **Specialist:** Do you have a hobby, passion, or interest you want to share with children, youth, and/or adults? Let us know, and we’ll make it happen. Specialists needed especially on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings, although we can work with you if those days don’t work for you.
- **Chef Team Member:** We aim to nourish souls *and* bodies. Looking for chefs and kitchen hands to prepare meals on Thursday evenings. Menu planners and grocery shoppers needed, too. Don’t want to cook? Hate grocery shopping? Still want to help? Sign up to pay part/all of a grocery bill. One-time and long-term opportunities available.



Questions? Excited? Want to join Expedition Equip’s Belay Team?
Contact Amanda at amanda.edwards@firstpreswac.org.

543

The number of pounds of food and milk raised for the Crisis Center in this year’s VBS Food Drive! Combined with over 260 bags of trail mix made in the Mission Zone that was donated to Shelter House, we were truly able to show God’s Love in Action!





Equipping Ministry



Christian Education Corner

VBS Wrap-Up!

If you happened to attend church on June 28th, you may have noticed some decorations that were out of the norm. If you were wondering why there were pennants hanging from the doors and why the Sanctuary's main aisle had been transformed into a city street, it's because of Vacation Bible School. From June 22–26 over 40 kids joined us for three hours of fun activities and games, all in order to learn a little more about God. This year's theme of "G-Force" centered around the scripture from Acts 17:28a, "In God we live, move and exist." Over the course of the week, we moved between art, drama, mission, music and recreation zones, learning that God calls us to move, act, care, follow and share!



VBS would not have happened without the help of our fabulous volunteers. Amanda and Jim are incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to work with you all. To our host of dedicated volunteers: Deb, Courtney, Lauren, Lily, Sarah, Gabi, Alex, Katie, Sara, Mia, Nick, Laurie, Peggy, Anita, Michelle, Rebecca, Logan, Brent, Cyan, Alia, Sully, Gina, Mary, Carol, Taylor, Jordan, Tina, Tammy, Judy, Mick, Audrey, Patte, and anyone who volunteered to supply food for our snack zone, thank you. Your dedication and love for service helped teach our congregation and broader community about God's love through Christ Jesus.



First Presbyterian Church

2701 Rochester Ave.
Iowa City, Iowa 52245



Summer Public Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday
except holidays or when announced

Ph 319-351-2660

www.firstpreswacacity.org

If you telephone the church office sometime between 12 noon and 1 p.m. and are directed to voicemail, please be patient. Staff takes 30 minutes a day for shared food, fellowship, and team building, so the actual time varies according to the needs of the church. At other times we may be on another line or in another part of the building addressing a ministry need. We will return your call!

And if you can volunteer to help answer the phones, that would be an answer to prayer.



Celebrating God's Faithfulness First Presbyterian Church 175th Anniversary Final Celebration weekend September 11-13, 2015

FRIDAY,
September 11, 2015
7-9 p.m.

The weekend's kick-off event is a Friday evening, Sept. 11 reception and dance at Old Brick, the church's original home. This evening of celebration is for anyone who: was married at Old Brick or FPC Rochester, attended a wedding there, or simply wants to celebrate life and love. Music will be provided by Smith Studio Jazz and hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and wedding cake will be provided. You are asked to bring your dancing shoes and a wedding photo to display, if available.



JJ and Toni DeRyke
October 8, 1955

SATURDAY, September 12, 2015

8:30 a.m.

The festivities continue on Saturday morning, Sept. 12 at 8:30 a.m. with a commemorative walk from Old Brick to the Rochester Ave. site, a re-enactment of the 1975 walk when the Rochester building was dedicated.



10:00 a.m.- Noon

At the Rochester site, there will be a ministry/mission fair, building and garden tours, a labyrinth walk and dedication, and old fashioned games for all ages.

SUNDAY, September 13, 2015

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Former pastor Tom Brown will preach at both 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services.

At 10:30 a.m. a bagpiper will be on hand to welcome people: worship music will be led by former organist David Richardson, the Sanctuary Choir, FPC Brass, and JuBELLation Handbell Choir.

9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Back to School Sunday—Coffee and Pastries; Christian Education begins

11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Catered lunch with special guest Gradye Parsons, PC(USA) Stated Clerk.

2:00 p.m.

The weekend's events will conclude with a Hymn Festival led by several former FPC choir directors and the church's current music ministry staff.

If you've ever sung in the Sanctuary Choir or would like to sing for this event, come to a rehearsal on Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.



*Through the Church
the Song Goes On*

Invite your friends and come join in the celebration.