



The Good News

of First Presbyterian Church for February 2016

Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

(Joel 12.13 [NRSV])

Lenten activities offer times for study, reflection, worship

The Lenten season has traditionally been a time when Christians attend to the cultivation of the things of the spirit.

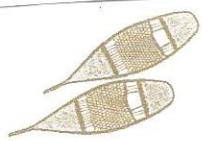
It is not a time to enter into a period of excessive introspection, gloom, and self-denial. Instead, it is appropriate to use the season as an opportunity to take stock of our own lives. For many of us there are too few opportunities to slow down and reflect upon the direction of our hectic, consumer-driven existence. The season of Lent invites us to take time to attend to those aspects of our lives that we often neglect.

During the time between Ash Wednesday, February 10 and Easter, March 27 we invite you to join in these activities:

- ▶ *Ash Wednesday communion with imposition of ashes February 10 at 6:30 p.m.*
- ▶ *Morning worship on Sundays at 8:30 and 11 a.m.*
- ▶ *Bible study on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m.*
- ▶ *Organ recital series Wednesdays from 12:15-12:45 p.m.*
- ▶ *Worship/Communion on Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m.*
- ▶ *Easter worship on March 27 at 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.*

Sunday, February 7, 2016, 1 p.m.

Get ready for a snowshoeing adventure at Quarry Hill



Please join us for a winter wonderland outdoor adventure. Weather permitting meet at the Quarry Hill Nature Center (701 Silver Creek Road NE) at 1 p.m.

Sunday, February 7. The park has over 300 acres to explore.

You can bring your own snowshoes or rent snowshoes at the Nature Center, or just wear snow boots. Snowshoe rental cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Snowshoeing is as easy as strapping snowshoes on your boots, no training necessary. It is best to dress in layers, because snowshoeing will warm you right up. We will see how many different animal tracks we can find in the snow.

If the activity needs to be canceled, a notice will be given on the church's answering machine.

If you have any questions please contact **Mark Mueller** at markmueller@chartermi.net.

“God-Views” highlights some opinions people have of God

“If I had known in advance how incredible this guy is, I would have invited ten people to his show ...”

Come join us as renowned actor and storyteller Curt Cloninger performs his one man show “God-Views” at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary on Saturday, February 6. Cloninger’s performance takes a poignant and often humorous look at some of the opinions people have about God.

Remember to pick up some free passes from the office and distribute them to your friends, neighbors and co-workers. There is no charge for the program and a ticket is not necessary for admission. So make sure to join us on Saturday, February 6 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary – and bring ten friends with you!

The program is made possible through our church’s Sheldon Jackson Lectureship Fund.

Celebrate Jay Rowland’s 15 years of ministry at FPC

We are going to celebrate **Jay Rowland’s** 15 years of ministry at FPC by having a luncheon in his honor on February 28.

At his request, the luncheon will be a potluck starting after the 11 a.m. worship service (about 12:30 p.m.) with a potluck meal. We are all asked to bring our favorite dish and our favorite cookies to share.

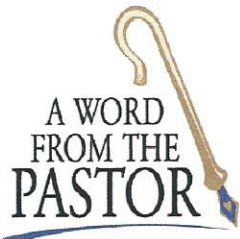
Dan Wentz is organizing a program of celebration, so please contact him (Wentz.Daniel@mayo.edu or 507-635-5823) if you would like to add your comments to the celebration.

~ Gayle Jones / Welcoming and Nurturing Committee

Dear righteous Lord, we enter the holy season of Lent confessing our many sins that separate us from you. We’re sincerely sorry for offending you repeatedly through our thoughts, our words and our actions — and often through our inactions, too.

Forgive us, Lord, and show us your tender mercy. Restore and strengthen us to become your faithful and faith-filled servants. During our Lenten journey, remind us to show mercy to other people, just as you’ve shown mercy to us.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.



February
2016

by Rev. T. J. Parlette

A Lenten Bible Study

Come walk in the footsteps of Jesus

Beginning on February 17, join us for the Wednesday night Lenten Bible study series as we study Adam Hamilton's book *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*.

Using videos shot on location, we will study and discuss Jesus' baptism and temptation, his healing ministry, and his proclamation of the Kingdom of God. We will consider the calming of the storm on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus' special concern for outcasts and sinners, and we will relive his final days in Jerusalem.

Please register for this study by Friday, February 5, so we have time to order the books. Books are available for \$13.00 and devotional guides for \$7.00. You may register in the church office.

Peace, *T. J.*

Congregation offered chance to give feedback on Sunday morning, Wednesday evening schedules

On Sundays February 7 and 21 the Christian Education Committee will host identical, informal listening sessions from 9:45 to 10 a.m. in the social hall.

The purpose is to gather feedback from parents, teachers and participants on the current Sunday School/Education Hour schedule for PreK through 5th grade and on the Wednesday evening youth activities schedule.

Come down to the social hall for coffee and a donut and stop by the CE table. Representatives of the CE Committee will be there to listen to your feedback. Email invitations/reminders will be sent to parents and teachers a few days before each session.

~ Jay Rowland / Associate Pastor

SAVE THE DATE: Please mark your calendars now for our annual Vacation Bible School (VBS). The tradition here at FPC is to offer VBS the first full week of summer break every June, which this year will be June 13-17. Save these dates!

Stewardship Alive!

Our Servant-King

Jesus began his ministry by being hungry,
yet he is the Bread of Life.

Jesus ended his earthly ministry by being thirsty,
yet he is the Living Water.

Jesus was weary,
yet he is our rest.

Jesus paid tribute,
yet he is the King.

Jesus was accused of having a demon,
yet he cast out demons.

Jesus wept,
yet he wipes away our tears.

Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver,
yet he redeemed the world.

Jesus was brought as a lamb to the slaughter,
yet he is the Good Shepherd.

Jesus died,
yet by his death he destroyed the power of death.
~ Gregory of Nazianzus (fourth-century church father)



First Presbyterian Church
512 SW 3rd Street
Post Office Box 906
Rochester, MN 55903
Telephone: 507/282-1618
FAX: 507/288-0809; e-mail: RochesterFPC@msn.com

The Good News is published the first of each month for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church (FPC).

The newsletter tells the story of the church, promotes its programs, and publicizes opportunities to live out one's faith.

Church Staff

Pastor	Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette
Associate Pastor	Jay P. Rowland
Director of Music	Lee J. Afdahl
Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education	Rick L. Morris
Office Administrator	Susan K. Kruger
Facility Manager	Harry E. Coleman
Custodian	Diane M. Johnston-Arthur
Music Assistant	Kathleen M. Kruger
Part-time custodians/security	Steven Aug, Sally Evans, Tami Rinn, Eric Schwartzbauer
Child Care Workers	Valerie Asleson, Kelly Bock, Margie Schaaf
Newsletter Editor	Carol J. Evans
Parish Associates	

Anneliese Opitz, Roger Ring, Carol Shaffer, James Walker

Sunday services of worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Education classes: Sundays at 9:40 a.m.

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;

Friday, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-noon

Visit our WEB site at www.FPCRochester.org.

The mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Rochester is to reflect God's love for all people by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Shrove Tuesday pancake supper marks beginning of Lent

Join us on February 9 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We will serve pancakes and sausages with all the "trimmings" prepared by our master cooks, **Lowell and Patti Meyer**.

This is a great way to prepare for Lent and enjoy fellowship with our church family. No reservations are necessary. The supper is sponsored by the Welcoming and Nurturing Committee.

CWS Blanket Program aids victims of disasters

Sunday, February 14, our church will once again participate in the Church World Service Blankets program.

This program helps people around the world recover from disasters and get a fresh start by providing not only blankets, but emergency supplies like clean water, food, tents, mosquito nets and health kits. The CWS Blankets program also works to assist families trying to reconstruct their lives and become self-sufficient through donations of tools, seeds, fishing nets and wells.

Members of our congregation have been very generous in their response to this special offering in past years and our church has received special recognition for its contributions.

Envelopes will be in the pew racks or you can mail a donation to the church office anytime in February.

Please remember to donate to this worthwhile mission. It will make a big difference in the life of a person in need.

~ Britta Youmans / Mission Committee

Empty Nesters needed for new Sitter Service

We would like to introduce a Sitter Service to support our families with young children. Hosanna Lutheran Church offers this service and was recently highlighted in the Post Bulletin. The Welcoming and Nurturing committee feels this is a great opportunity to show our support for these families and to strengthen intergenerational bonds.

We are going to start by trying three Sitter nights ... the second Friday of March, April and May (March 11, April 8, May 13). We will then assess how well the pilot program worked and determine plans for Fall.

We plan to offer the Sitter Service free of charge to all our congregation families with children through 4th grade. More information will be provided to families about sign-up. The service will be offered from 6-10 p.m. and allow parents to have a well-deserved evening to have dinner or see a movie, etc. We plan to offer games, crafts, movies, and snacks.

To offer this service we need Empty Nesters (and anyone who is young at heart) to volunteer to come help and enjoy making connections with the children of our congregation. If you would be willing to help at one or more of the three Fridays, please contact **Gayle Jones** (mngjones@gmail.com or 507-993-2443) and come to a short informational meeting on February 21 right after the 11 a.m. worship service.

First Presbyterian Church celebrates 155th anniversary, recognizes 50⁺-year members



The First Presbyterian Church of Rochester was founded on February 17, 1861, by Sheldon Jackson. Since then we have traveled the roads of 155 years. Some of these roads have been rough, some smooth, some straight, some winding, but each one has helped reveal to us the love of God working through our lives.

On February 21 we will honor and say "thank you" to 77 "golden" people who have been members for at least 50 years. Their names have been in our bulletins and newsletters as Sunday School teachers, ushers, choir members, stewardship campaign workers, elders, and deacons. Many of them still appear on the church's doorstep regularly as volunteers.

Our most senior member, **Ursula Thedens**, was confirmed at First Presbyterian in 1942. Our oldest "golden," **Margaret Harris**, joined in 1951. Our youngest "golden," **Judy Kruesel**, was confirmed in 1965.

The list of 50+-year members includes

70+-year member	Donald Scholz	Judy Kruesel
Ursula Thedens	Mary Sheridan	Donna Lee
Clifford Gastineau	Alfred Thedens	Robert MacCarty
60+-year members	Patricia Whisnant	James Martin
Edith Albrecht	Lewis Woolner	Peter McConahey
Louise Bastron	50+-year members	Donald McIlrath
Zella Boutelle	George Bayrd	Douglas Nelson
Nancy Brandrup	Lucille Bill	Joyce Nelson
David Ellefson	Allen Benson	Hilda Nelson
Lynn Ferschweiler	Kay Boege	Norman Nelson
Patricia Gastineau	Constance Bowen	Ruth Pexton
William Haas	John Brandrup	Mary Ress
Margaret Harris	Omer Burgert	Jean Shaw
Helen Hill	Elaine Davis	Alan Sessler
Sandra Holloway	Jane Destro	Martha Sessler
Isabel Huizenga	Allen Dollerschell	Carol Smyrk
Charlene Kyle	Marcia Dollerschell	Charles Smyrk
Robert Kyle	Char Ellefson	Naomi Spiekerman
Lonnie Martin	Susan Field	Ralph Spiekerman
Lowell Meyer	Melvin Hicks	Jon Thiem
Dan Moore	Judy Hunter	John Thistle
Nadene Moore	Kenneth Irvin	Judith Thistle
Jennie Orvis	Laura Irvin	Jane Tietjen
Jean Peterson	Robert Jarett	Suzanne Turlington
Lynn Postier	David Jones	Elmer VanDerHeyden
Janet Purnell	Elaine Jones	Mary VanDerHeyden
Ruby Rose	M. Pauline Krieger	

Congratulations and thank you for your part in shaping our church! You are an inspiration to all of us. When the rest of us have been members for 50 years, may yet newer members look on us as gratefully and appreciatively as we look on you.

The congregation is invited to a reception in the social hall following both services on February 21.



Ministry of Music


Lee Afdahl, Director of Music
Katie Kruger, Director of First Players,
Cherub and Calvin Choirs

O music ... thou hast taught us to see with
our ears and hear with our hearts.
(Kahlil Gibran)

FOM presents Lenten recital series

During the 2016 Lenten season, First Presbyterian Church will again sponsor organ recitals each Wednesday from 12:15 – 12:45 p.m. in the sanctuary. The first concert of this five-concert series is February 17. Everyone is welcome.

- February 17 Brian Williams, organist
Calvary Episcopal Church, Rochester
- February 24 Harold Vetter, organist
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Rochester
- March 2 Shayla DeJong, organ student
Luther College, Decorah, Iowa
- March 9 Julie Yoonjeong Kim, organist
Congregational Church, Rochester
- March 16 Eileen Nelson Ness, organist
Salem Lutheran Church, Albert Lea

 Singing and ringing schedule for February			
	8:30	11:00	Both
February 7	Chancel Choir	Calvin Choir	Joyous Praise
February 10	<i>Ash Wednesday Service</i> <i>with communion and imposition of ashes</i> Singing: Chancel Choir. Ringing: Jubilate Deo		
February 14	Chancel Choir	Cherub Choir	
February 21	Chancel and Youth Choir	Calvin Choir	Joyous Praise
February 28		Chancel Choir	Jubilate Deo

New member class forms February 7

A two-week new member class will begin February 7. Anyone interested in joining First Presbyterian Church, or in finding out more about our church, is welcome. The class will meet in the conference room (A-209) at 9:45 a.m. If you decide to join, new members will meet with the Session on February 14 and be recognized by the congregation at the 11 a.m. service that day.

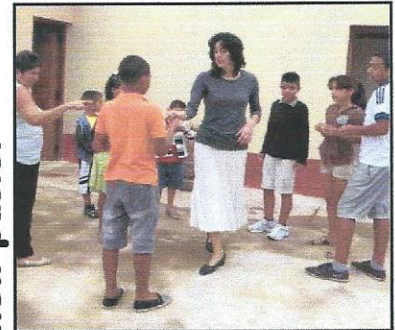
New hospital policies restrict access to patient census

Due to policy changes at the hospitals in Rochester, we no longer have access to the religious census list. This means that the pastors and the deacons have no way to check if any of our members are in the hospital. Please assist us in providing spiritual support during your hospital stay by calling the church office, or having a friend call on your behalf, to let us know you are there.

Opportunities abound for adult study, discussion

Adult education ~ Sundays / 9:45-10:40 a.m. Members have asked for in-depth studies and here are several great opportunities covering a wide variety of topics and interests!	
Bible Study (South Fireside) <i>Kerygma</i>	The Kerygma Class will continue its study of the Gospel of <i>Matthew</i> . The class is led by Jane Goodfriend and Ruth Walts .
Current Issues (Lounge)	February 3 <i>Ripped from the Headlines</i> February 10 <i>Ripped from the Headlines</i> February 17 <i>Ripped from the Headlines</i> February 24 <i>Ripped from the Headlines</i> The Current Issues discussion is led by Al Depman .
Parenting Class (A-101) <i>Grace-Based Parenting</i>	For parents, grandparents, and parental figures, the class will continue its study titled <i>Building Character</i> . The study is facilitated by Ariel Boswell and Lucinda Clements .
Bible Study ~ Wednesdays / 6:30-7:30 p.m.	
Bible Study (Sheldon Jackson Lounge)	February 3 <i>What really happened at Babel?</i> February 10 > Ash Wednesday - no class < The Bible Study is led by Al Depman . # # # February 17 - March 16 A Lenten Study led by Rev. T. J. Parlette <i>The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus</i> by Adam Hamilton

Jagüey Grande church installs new pastor



The church we have been supporting in Jagüey Grande, Cuba, now has a permanent pastor. Pictured above is The Reverend Liz Eleyne Capó Lima, a recent graduate of Matanzas Seminary, with some of the church's young people.

The church ended 2015 with 72 baptized members. Three children were baptized in 2015. The church averages 35 attendees for worship each week and has six elders and four deacons. There is an active women's group, a Sunday school, and a small group of young people. A multi-purpose room, added to the back of the sanctuary, is near completion. The church is very appreciative of the help we have given them, from the building of the sanctuary to the new room.

~ Sylvia Swede / Mission Committee

By love serve one another

Your mission money is well spent

In 2014 members of First Presbyterian Church made a significant contribution to Forman Christian College in Lahore, Pakistan when we raised money to support the building of a new dormitory.

As the only college with Christian in the name, Forman Christian College is something of an anomaly in Pakistan. As a Christian institution living by our values, we extend that umbrella of God's grace offered to all men and women regardless of ethnicity, religion or economic level, whether they be students, staff or faculty. All participate in an institution that fully respects their human dignity and students receive the kind of education they will not receive anywhere else in Pakistan – one that opens their eyes to other worlds. Your thoughtful donation allows us to not only continue what we do, but improve it, and make a difference every day in the lives of our students, faculty, staff and missionaries.

Your Mission Committee recently received an appeal from the school to help support a Primary School at the college. This new school is focused on the young children of uneducated laborers, for example grounds keepers, who might otherwise have no opportunity to get a formal education. The name of this school is The Light of Hope School. The Mission Committee felt this was a very worthwhile endeavor and therefore sent funds.

We have received several notes of appreciation for this contribution and we would like to share one with you for it is you who have made this possible.

Dear Rev. Parlette,

Friends of Forman Christian College thanks you and your congregation for your recent generous gift to Forman Christian College for the Light of Hope School. With these scholarships you are starting these children out on the best educational life; you have literally changed their lives forever! Thank you for making such a difference! Peace to you and your church family –

Blessings, Susan Mann

Friends of Forman Christian College

~ Jon Closson / Mission Committee

FPC gift wrapping for Habitat for Humanity earned \$600

The FPC gift-wrapping team earned over \$600 on December 21. Thanks to all who signed up and helped on that day. The total earned by gift wrapping for Habitat in December was \$10,587.52 after expenses. This will help four families achieve their dream of owning a home.

~ Marcia Dollerschell / FPC gift wrapping coordinator

from the FPC Parish Nursing program

Check out these new resources for healthy living



If one of your New Years resolutions has to do with healthy living or diet, the Parish Nursing ministry has several new resources for you!

- ★ **PrayFit Diet:** This book by Jimmy Pena is a great combination - science based food advice with a faith based approach.
- ★ **PrayFit work out DVD:** 33 minutes/day of work outs for 33 days can make a big difference!
- ★ **Mayo Clinic Diet:** one of the best diets around. Multiple steps help keep you motivated to make and keep lifestyle changes.
- ★ **The Daniel Diet:** Pastor Rick Warren's church adopted this plan on a big scale and collectively lost over 200,000 pounds! This is all about losing weight in community with others and not going it alone.
- ★ **Joyce Meyer's Good Health, Good Life** offers a fun and readable 12-point plan for whole-being wellness.

Finally, we have acquired a scale and tape measure. If you're starting a weight loss plan (even if it's not one of these) and want to stop in for a weigh-in, come by between the services on the first Sunday of the month and we'll track your progress! If you would like to borrow any of these resources, they are in the church library. Let me know at fpccparishnursing@gmail.com!

~ Ariel Boswell / FPC Parish Nursing Advisory Council

Plan now for Synod School 2016

Synod School 2016 will be held July 24-29 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. Theme for the event is "Connecting with Jesus in an Over-Connected World." Convocation speaker is John Bell, a popular speaker throughout Europe and North American, a minister of the Church of Scotland and a member of the Iona Community.

Synod School, an annual midsummer ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, is for laity, clergy, families, and singles. It is fun and mind-stretching courses, worship and singing you'll long remember, and times for both fellowship and private reflection. Discover Synod School and you'll know why so many people keep returning.

Choose among 60+ courses, including Bible studies, body and mind renewal classes, classes for living faithfully in the world, and classes for leader development. The hardest part is deciding which classes you want to take!

Registration materials will be in the church office later in February or check the Synod's WEB page at www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool.

♥ Financial Fitne\$\$: giving is good for your heart ♥

Session adopts \$794,200 budget

At its January meeting Session adopted a budget of \$794,200 for 2016. This is a 1.1% (\$9,400) decrease over the 2015 budget.

The budget will be underwritten by general budget pledges (\$612,499), outreach pledges (\$92,277), one-time gift (\$15,000), contributions over pledge (\$45,000), plate offering (\$13,500), miscellaneous income, rent and interest (\$12,324), and a Faith Factor (\$3,600).

Committees were diligent in watching their budgets, and we ended 2015 with a balance of \$44,045 that will be added to the Capital Reserve Fund for extraordinary expenses or to cover years when we have a deficit.

Budget area	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
Building/Grounds, incl CapM Fd	92,420	97,600
Christian Education	7,029	7,500
Youth Ministry	261	5,700
Mission (including designated projects, Unified Mission, Theological Education Fund)	43,445	45,000
Office Services	24,575	22,500
PCUSA Per Capita assessment	24,455	25,900
Personnel/Administration	499,118	527,500
Social Concerns	17,076	21,000
Stewardship/Finance	21,221	21,500
Welcoming/Nurturing	5,812	7,000
Worship/Music	<u>11,538</u>	<u>13,000</u>
Total	\$746,950	\$794,200

Special Offerings raise \$61,090

What a congregation! On behalf of the many people who will benefit from your generosity, we are happy to announce and thank you for the special donations you made in 2015. In addition to the \$61,090 listed, donors supported the anthem fund and implementation projects.

Birthday Offering (PW)	1,250
Blankets+ Program (CWS)	6,112
Channel One/Minnesota FoodShare & CropWalk	12,109
Christmas Joy Offering (PCUSA)	6,568
Deacons Fund	2,646
Medical Missions Offering (PW)	4,675
One Great Hour of Sharing (PCUSA)	9,139
PCUSA Mission Coworker Support	9,500
Peacemaking Offering (PCUSA)	5,880
Witness/Pentecost Offering (PCUSA)	3,211

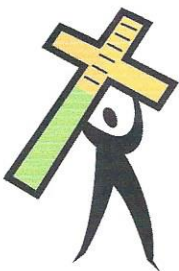
We also contributed food and household supplies to Channel One, Hope Lodge, Women's Shelter, and Dorothy Day, Gift of Life Transplant, and Ronald McDonald Houses.

Through the Sharing Tree at Christmas we helped Dorothy Day House, Alternative Learning Center for new and expectant mothers, and Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Financial Statement December 2015

General Operating Budget

Balance (11/30/15)	\$ 9,638.71
Receipts (December)	+ 111,417.32
Disbursements (December)	- 77,011.25
Balance (12/31/15)	\$ 44,044.78



We exist temporarily
through what we take,
but we live forever
through what we give.
(Douglas M. Lawson)

Stewardship 2016: 239 pledging units commit \$704,776

General Budget = \$612,499; Outreach = \$92,277

Range of Pledges Per year	Per week	Cumul number pledges	Number pledges as cumulative % of congregation	Cumulative amount pledged	Amount pledged as cumulative % of total pledge
10000-37800	192-727	11	2.8%	184,140	26.1%
7000-9999	134-192	20	5.0%	257,164	36.5%
6000-6999	115-134	29	7.3%	313,624	44.5%
5000-5999	96-115	43	10.8%	387,806	55.0%
4000-4999	77-96	54	13.5%	436,479	61.9%
3000-3999	58-77	82	20.5%	530,939	75.3%
2500-2999	48-58	89	22.3%	549,875	78.0%
2000-2499	38-48	111	27.8%	599,343	85.0%
1500-1999	59-38	127	31.8%	625,563	88.8%
1000-1499	19-29	161	40.3%	664,968	94.4%
500-999	10-19	207	51.8%	697,196	98.9%
Under 500	1-10	239	59.8%	704,776	100.0%
Total = 239 pledges/390 potential pledges				704,776	

* Of the 151 units from whom we did not receive pledges, we expect about 65 to make a donation in 2016.



News from Presbyterian Women

* *Sylvia Swede, facilitator*

Circles always welcome visitors and new members! Join us for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. The 2015-2016 Bible study is *Come to the Waters*.

Esther Circle: February 15 at 1 p.m. in the lounge.

Hostesses: **Jane Hallman** and **Susie McClocklin**. Devotions: **Sylvia Swede**. Program: TBA.

Priscilla Circle: February 17 at 9:15 a.m. in the lounge.

Hostesses: **Bev Lewis** and **Peg Parsons**. Program: **Zoe Abrahamson** (Bible Study). Devotions: **Zoe Abrahamson**. Project: Small lotions, etc, for Hawthorne Helps.

Ruth Circle: February 20 at 10 a.m. in the lounge.

Hostess: **Jan Sherman**. Devotions: **Gayle Jones**. Bible Study Lesson #6: **Phyllis Schmid**.

Prayer Shawl group: February 11 at 1 p.m. in the lounge. All knitters and crocheters are welcome! In 2015, the Prayer Shawl Ministry gave out 36 shawls, 3 of which went to confirmands. If you know someone who would appreciate a prayer shawl, please contact **Susie McClocklin** (288-7772).

Thanks to all who provided paper products and other needed items for Hope Lodge in January.

World Day of Prayer convenes March 5 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Plan to attend the World Day of Prayer at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (519 20th Street SW) on Saturday, March 5, beginning with coffee and fellowship at 10 a.m. followed by a worship service at 10:30.

This year's theme, "Receive Children. Receive Me," is based on Isaiah 11:1-10 and Mark 10:13-16. The service was planned by the women of Cuba.

World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical celebration carried out by women in more than 170 countries on or near the first Friday in March. It brings together women of many races, cultures, and traditions in closer fellowship and understanding.

Women return to Eagle Bluff for retreat March 11-13

Sign up now for FPC's women's retreat March 11-13 at Eagle Bluff Environmental Center near Lanesboro. The retreat begins with supper on Friday and ends after lunch on Sunday. The theme is "Show Him Your Hands." The cost of \$120 is payable to PW. Put your check in the PW box in the office. Contact **Alice Kerr** (288-1755) if you have questions.

Church Family News

Anniversaries

Congratulations to **Warren and LaDonna Fay** who will celebrate their 62nd wedding anniversary February 14.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to **Isabel Huizenga** who will celebrate her 96th birthday February 28.

Death

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of **Lee Christensen**, who died January 15 in Minneapolis.

Crafter's Group welcomes young and old



The Crafters Group will meet Wednesday, February 17, starting at 3 p.m. Come join us as we make cards for our C.A.R.E. members or bring a project of your own to work on. Card supplies are provided, as are fellowship, smiles and laughter.

Please call **Mary Huie** if you have any questions.

~ *Mary Huie* (282-9712) / *Crafters coordinator*

Sharing Hands makes Little Dresses for girls in Haiti



This little girl in Haiti was so excited to get a Little Dress that she put it on over her school uniform. Sharing Hands (**Ruth Guy**, organizer) made 32 dresses and 30 book bags for Haiti in 2015. Thanks to sewers **Janet Eric, Ruth Guy, Carol McDonough, and Bev Salomonsen**. If anyone would like to sew Little Dresses for Haiti and needs instructions, please call **Ruth Guy** (280-8169)

If we are to accept the teaching of Jesus at all, then the only test of the reality of a man's religion is his attitude to his fellow men. The only possible proof that a man loves God is the demonstrated fact that he loves his fellow men.

(William Barclay)

Copies of *The Annual Reports for the Congregational Meeting* are available in the atrium, foyer, narthex, and church office.



First Presbyterian Church
 P. O. Box 906
 Rochester, Minnesota 55903-0906

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Rochester, MN
 Permit No. 111

Address Service Requested

February
 2016

February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>1</i> FPC@Community Food Response	<i>2</i> Most committees meet/ check w/lead elder 9:30 AM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Deacons/Lounge	<i>3</i> Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual 1:00 PM Charter House worship and communion 5:45 PM Supper 6:30 PM Bible Study	<i>4</i> 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 7:00 PM "God-Views" w/Curt Cloninger
<i>7</i> Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Communion Joyous Praise rings (both) 8:30 AM Chancel Choir sings 9:30 AM Blood Pressure/Parish Nursing 9:40 AM New Mbr class 9:45 AM CED Listening Sessions 11:00 AM Chancel Choir sings 1:00 PM Snowshoe Adventure/Quarry Hill	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 9:30 AM Staff meeting 5:45 PM Pancake Supper/ W&N Cmte 6:00 PM W&M Cmte 7:15 PM FOM Cmte	<i>10</i> Ash Wednesday Ringers/choir - as usual Youth - attend worship 5:45 PM Supper 6:30 PM Chancel Choir sings 6:30 PM JubilateDeo rings 6:30 PM Worship w/communion, imposition of ashes 7:30 PM Joyous Praise Bells	<i>11</i> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> CWS Blankets Sunday Valentine's Day Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Chancel Choir sings (both) 10:40 AM New Mbr class w/Session 11:00 AM Cherub Choir sings	<i>15</i> Presidents' Day Newsletter items due 1:00 PM Esther Circle No school/Presidents' D... Church closed	<i>16</i> 9:30 AM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Session/Fireside Rm	<i>17</i> 155th Anniversary of First Presbyterian Church Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual 9:15 AM Priscilla Circle 12:15 PM Lenten recital/B Williams 3:00 PM Crafters Group 5:45 PM Supper 6:30 PM Bible Study w/TJ Parlette	<i>18</i> 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 10:00 AM Ruth Circle
<i>21</i> Anniversary Sunday Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Recognize 50+ year members and anniversary reception Joyous Praise rings (both) 8:30 AM Chancel/Youth Choirs sing 9:45 AM CED Listening Sessions 11:00 AM Calvin Choir sings	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 9:30 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Chancel Guild	<i>24</i> Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual 12:15 PM Lenten recital/H Vetter 5:45 PM Supper 6:30 PM Bible Study w/TJ Parlette	<i>25</i> Mail newsletter 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace. (Mahatma Gandhi)						
<i>28</i> Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Jubilate Deo (both) Honor Jay Rowland 15 years at FPC 11:00 AM Chancel Choir sings	<i>29</i> Sunday school schedule Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday school / all ages at 9:40 a.m. Calvin Choir at 9:40 a.m. Cherub Choir at 10:20 a.m.	Wednesday youth schedule (except February 10) 4:15 p.m. Alleluia Ringers (grades 2-5) 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir (grades 6-12) 5:45 p.m. Supper		6:15 p.m. Middle/High School youth 7:15 p.m. Joyous Praise bells (grades 6-12)		