



# The Good News

## of First Presbyterian Church

### for January 2016

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

(Psalm 19.1 [NRSV])

### Annual Meeting presents "State of the Church"

Mark **Sunday, January 31** on your calendar. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will begin at 9:40 a.m. in the sanctuary and end by 11 a.m. Nursery care for infants and Sunday school classes for children through 7th grade will be offered as usual. Youth in 8th grade and up will attend the Annual Meeting. Adult education classes are cancelled.

The budget for 2016 will be presented. Any matters pertaining to the life of the congregation may be raised.

Since many of you will already be in the building, either stay an extra hour or come an hour early; meet people who attend the "other" worship service; and hear about the work of the church in 2015 and plans for 2016.

Reports of committees and organizations of the church will be available beginning January 24.

Please join us for this important event in the life of our church.

### A Festival of Music showcases Luther College Nordic Choir

**Time: Sunday, January 31 at 4 p.m.**

**Place: First Presbyterian Church sanctuary**



The 72-member Nordic Choir is Luther College's "flagship choir" and is one of the top a cappella college choirs in the nation.

The choir tours annually and has performed around the world appearing in Norway, England, Germany, Russia,

Poland, Hungary, Romania, the Baltic countries, Mexico and the Caribbean. They have appeared throughout the United States in such well-known concert halls as Lincoln Center in New York and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D. C. Highlights of 2015 included a tour of Italy and a performance of Handel's *Messiah* at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis.

Traditions within the Nordic Choir include holding hands during all performances, sapphire blue velvet robes, and singing Pavel Chesnokov's *O Lord God* as their signature benedictory since 1948. They will be joining us as they return to the Midwest after their West Coast Tour (13 concerts in 14 days).

Allen Hightower, director of choral activities and professor of music at Luther, is the conductor of the Nordic Choir. He gives leadership to a choral program that includes four conductors, six choirs, and over 500 singers. He presently serves as a Worship Pastor at Autumn Ridge Church in Rochester. Luther College, home to one of the largest collegiate music programs in the world, also involves another 500 student musicians in three bands, three orchestras, two jazz bands and numerous chamber ensembles.

There is no admission fee for the concert but an offering will be accepted. A dessert reception will follow the concert.

~ Jane Hallman  
/ Festival of Music

Nordic Choir  
Sunday, January 31, 2016



*Sunday, January 10 at 11 a.m. we will ordain and install those who were elected to the offices of Elder and Deacon at the congregational meeting in November. Mark your calendar for this important event in the lives of these people and of our congregation.*

**Deacon / Class of 2017**

Jamie Carroll Beverly Tuohy

**Deacon / Class of 2018**

Debra Bauch June Lee Beverly Olander  
Brett Carroll David Lewis Lucy Schmidt  
Rosella Lund

**Elder / Class of 2016**

Dan Wentz

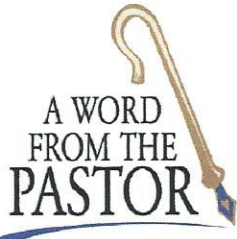
**Elder / Class of 2018**

Kenneth Boyer Mark Mueller Karen Sessler  
Fabian Luna Sharon Nichols Jay Youmans

**Endowment Committee / Class of 2018**

James Talen





by Rev. T. J. Parlette

January 2016

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

### Curt Cloninger brings "God-Views" to First Presbyterian Church

"If I had known in advance how incredible this guy is, I would have invited ten people to his show!" That's a common audience response after seeing one of Curt Cloninger's performances. Come see for yourself when Curt joins us at First Presbyterian on Saturday, February 6 at 7 p.m. to perform his one-man show "God-Views."

Curt Cloninger is an actor, writer, storyteller and genuinely talented guy who has been performing his unique brand of solo theater for over 25 years. He has performed in some unlikely places: in the Georgia Dome for 30,000 people, standing on top of a stool in the commons at U.C. Berkeley and in every imaginable theater and church setting.

His performances have an intimacy which pulls people into the stories. Wherever he performs, whether it's a large conference, or a small theater, people are deeply moved. Curt commonly hears from people who tell him that his stories are still impacting their lives, years after seeing a performance. Curt's performances make people laugh, and cry, and examine what they believe about life. And while they're laughing, they also get a refreshing new perspective on God's great story of love. Curt's work is more than brilliant theater - it's theater with a lasting impression.

You can read more about Curt and see videos of his performances at his website, [curtcloninger.com](http://curtcloninger.com). So make sure to join us on Saturday, February 6 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary - and bring ten friends with you!

Peace, *T. J.*

### Celebrate Jay Rowland's fifteen years at FPC

On February 28 we will gather at 12:30, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service, for a potluck lunch in honor of Jay Rowland's 15 years of ministry at First Presbyterian Church.

Every family is asked to bring their favorite dish and a favorite cookie to share. Beverages will be provided. A program following the meal will highlight Jay's years and contributions to our church. If you would like to participate, please contact Dan Wentz (635-5823), who will be Master of Ceremonies that day.

~ Gayle Jones / Welcoming and Nurturing Committee

## Stewardship Alive!

As we look for the first unsung heroes of 2016, some very special people come to mind—the elders, deacons, and other elected officers completing terms of active service in 2015. Your accomplishments are many and your caring unequaled.

We don't bid you farewell, but we do say "thanks" for jobs well done. You have enriched our lives by your faithfulness and we hope your lives have grown by the service you have given us. Thank you!

#### Elders / Class of 2015

Chris Boswell Julie Doppler Andrew Pruett  
Jon Closson Diane Grill Tim Smith

#### Deacons / Class of 2015

Steven Aug Jackie James Vicky Pileggi  
Marcia Dollerschell Michael McDonough JoAnna Pruett  
Hope Meschke

#### Endowment Committee / Class of 2015

Bev Lewis

#### Nominating Committee / Class of 2015

Gayle Jones (lead elder), Jane Murl (elder), John Brandrup, Robert Sannes, Lucy Schmidt, Frank Sharbrough, Neil Shepard (Deacon representative), and Melissa Wobig



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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  
Part-time Music Assistant Katie Kruger  
Part-time custodians/security Steven Aug, Sally Evans, Tami Rinn, Eric Schwartzbauer  
Child Care Workers Valerie Asleson, Kelly Bock, Margie Schaff  
Newsletter Editor Carol J. Evans  
Parish Associates

Anneliese Opitz, Roger Ring, Carol Shaffer, James Walker

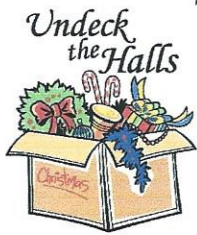
Sunday services of worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.  
Education classes: Sundays at 9:40 a.m.  
Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;  
Friday, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-noon  
Visit our WEB site at [www.FPCRochester.org](http://www.FPCRochester.org).

**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.**



Saturday, January 9 ~ 9:30 a.m.

## Volunteers needed to “undecorate” the church



The church looked very nice with all the decorations over the Advent season. Now it is time to take it all down.

Come help us undecorate the Christmas halls of First Presbyterian on January 9 beginning at 9:30 a.m. There will be jobs for all ages and interests. Donut holes, coffee and juice will be available.

~ Bev Lewis and Ruth Walts  
and the Welcoming and Nurturing Committee

### Picture Directory Update

## Photo sessions still open January 12-16 for picture directory

We're excited to note that during the second week of December nearly 100 families had their pictures taken for the picture directory.

Our second (and last) photo session will be January 12-16. There are still open photo sessions on some of those days—particularly on Saturday, January 16. Please register online (link is on our web page - [fpcrochester.org](http://fpcrochester.org)) or call **Jane Hallman** (507-993-6652) to schedule (or reschedule) an appointment.

If you are unable to be photographed by our contracted photographer and would like to have your photo included in the directory, contact Jane regarding submitting a photo. Digital files are clearer but it's also possible to submit a photo to be scanned. Deadline for submission is Friday, January 15.

Many thanks to all of you who took the time during this busy holiday season to be photographed. Our family directory is more complete because you're in it!

~ Jane Hallman / Pictorial Directory coordinator

## Help Us Provide Housing



Building communities, strengthening lives.

January 17 – 24 will be First Presbyterian's first week hosting the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) families in our church. Volunteers provide support, food, shelter, and a caring environment for homeless families with children. Families are accepted into the program after screening by the IHN staff; the network can house up to 14 people at a time. Being part of IHN gives them the support they need to regroup, rejuvenate, and get back on their feet with dignity.

Volunteer sign-ups are via [SignUpGenius.com](http://SignUpGenius.com). Use this link to view open slots and upcoming training dates and times:  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4CA8AA2FABFB6-ihmweek1>

Questions? Please call either **Karen Sessler** (226-3420) or **Ken Boyer** (282-3776).

~ Karen & Ken / IHN Coordinators

## FPC festivities include first Madrigal Christmas Feaste

On December 5, FPC presented a wonderful start to our Christmas season with its first Madrigal Christmas Feaste. All 96 tickets were sold and we even had a waiting list which we were able to fulfill with last-minute unused tickets.

The evening was a perfect blend of theater (who knew TJ was such a “star”), wonderful vocal and instrumental music, pageantry and costuming and special food. This was a mammoth undertaking for so many of our church. We wanted everyone who didn't get to come to see how many of our members supported this project.

Jean Abele \* Zoe Abrahamson \* Lee Afdahl \* Warren Bandel \* Peter Brooks \* Sally Brooks \* Sandy Carroll \* Allen Dollerschell \* Marcia Dollerschell \* Elizabeth Dunn \* Holly Ebel \* Lettie Eckberg \* Bruce Fye \* Lois Fye \* Ann Gastineau \* Dennis Gastineau \* Jane Hallman \* Mary Huie \* Dwight Jennings \* Gayle Jones \* Nancy Kreinbring \* Katie Kruger \* Sue Kruger \* Cindy Kunzman \* Bev Lewis \* Dave Lewis \* Bob Litwiller \* Leslie Litwiller \* Allyson Maurer \* Lowell Meyer \* Patti Meyer \* Mark Mueller \* Jane Murl \* Terry Narr \* Juliet Parlette \* TJ Parlette \* Scott Pauley \* Mark Pileggi \* Tom Pileggi \* Connie Polk \* Warren Potter \* Elizabeth Remfert \* Ken Saling \* Ruth Saling \* Jim Sessler \* Karen Sessler \* Janice Shepard \* Neil Shepard \* Laura Smith \* Tim Smith \* Judy Smithson \* Kristin Sorenson \* Paul Steger \* Britta Youmans \* Greg Zent

Thanks so much for all the time and creativity spent in celebrating the birth of our Lord.

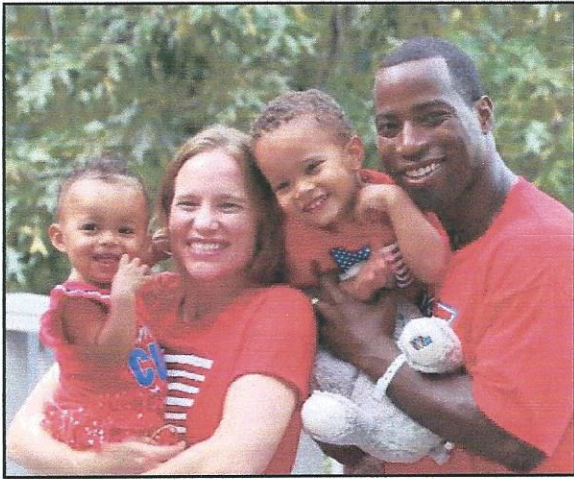
~ Gayle Jones / Madrigal Christmas Feaste coordinator

*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.*

To accomplish this, our church works

- † To nurture the members of the church with a strong worship experience and compassionate pastoral leadership
- † To encourage active participation in worship by individuals and families
- † To strengthen faith and commitment by promoting vital Christian education, music, and fellowship programs for all ages
- † To be a caring church community that ministers to individual needs
- † To recognize our unique opportunity to minister to the spiritual needs of visitors to the medical center
- † To share our faith through mission and social concern outreach in both the local and world community
- † To maintain strong ties with Presbytery, Synod and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and to fulfill our responsibilities toward these bodies.





## Smith-Mathers extend gratitude for yearly support from FPC

Dear Elders, Staff and Members of First Presbyterian Church,

Warm Christmas greetings from South Sudan! And yes, it is really very warm here as the dry season is upon us.

When our family first moved to South Sudan in December of 2011, we heard news about a large attack on a rural community which brought many displaced persons and orphaned children to Juba, South Sudan's capital city. Some of the people who fled their homes, and children who lost their parents, resettled in the community near Akatgol Presbyterian Church in Juba.

When this South Sudanese Presbyterian church saw that the displaced children were not able to pay fees to attend government schools, God moved them to open a free school, Akatgol Primary School. The church collected offerings during Sunday worship, asked the older youth in the choir to serve as volunteer teachers, and made classrooms of sticks and mud. The children were very grateful.

This year, through the South Sudan Education and Peacebuilding Project, the PCUSA added two cement classrooms to the Akatgol School. The church members, children, and community are encouraged by this partnership.

*"People look at the new building, and they are amazed," explained the head teacher, "But I tell them, with God, nothing is impossible."*

We are so grateful that, through the PCUSA, we are able to join with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan as they serve God through serving the local community. Our family feels humbled by the opportunity to be in South Sudan, and we know that we cannot do so on our own. Thank you for your support of our family and of the ministries of peacebuilding and education we feel called to serve. Your prayers and financial support encourages us.

Thank you, First Presbyterian Church family, for your generous gift of \$2,500 this year. Our family is humbled by your partnership and also incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have you join us in God's work in South Sudan.

As Christmas approaches, the people of South Sudan continue to pray that peace will hold in their country. Many fear that violent conflict will continue. Living in South Sudan has given me a deep appreciation of the Christmas promise that someday there will be peace on earth. God places that longing in

the human heart, and Christ's birth gives that hope life.

Grateful for your participation in God's work on earth and for your shared hope in the promise of peace, thank you!

~ Rev. Shelvis Smith-Mather and Rev. Nancy Smith-Mather  
Mission Co-Workers of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.  
& Reformed Church in America

## FPC raises \$9,400 for mission co-worker program

In response to a plea in worship earlier this fall, members of our church raised and sent \$9,400 to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to support the Mission Co-worker program.

Jon Closson, on behalf of our Mission Committee, received this response:

Jon, that's very good news about First Presbyterian's response to the plea for help in funding mission co-workers. Hey, if every congregation responded like that, we'd be able not only to keep our current mission co-workers, but call and send a bunch more!

Please pass my thanks to your mission committee, your session, and to your entire congregation. OK? Tell them that some guy from Louisville says, "Thanks!"

~from Bruce Whearty / Church Support Associate / PCUSA

## 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!

<b>Bible Study (South Fireside)</b> <i>Kerygma</i>	The Kerygma Class will continue its study of the Gospel of <i>Matthew</i> . The class is led by <b>Jane Goodfriend and Ruth Walts</b> .
<b>Current Issues (Lounge)</b>	December 6 <i>Headlines and More</i> December 13 <i>Headlines and More</i> December 20 <i>Headlines and More</i> December 27 < Annual Meeting > The Current Issues discussion is led by <b>Al Depman</b> .
<b>Parenting Class (A-101)</b> <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 <b>Ariel Boswell and Lucinda Clements</b> .

### Bible Study ~ Wednesdays / 6:30-7:30 p.m.

<b>Bible Study (Sheldon Jackson Lounge)</b>	January 6 <i>A study of 1 John</i> (Mark Mueller) January 13 <i>Uncertainty and the Bible</i> January 20 <i>Jesus Wept</i> January 27 <i>The Power of the Gospel</i> The Bible Study is led by <b>Al Depman</b> .
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## How to keep your New Year resolutions



It's January again - time to make New Year resolutions you won't keep, perhaps start a diet you won't stick to or join a gym you won't use... Just kidding! Here are some ways to keep those New Year's resolutions this year.

### #1 Be Realistic

Almost nobody can go from zero minutes of exercise a day to an hour or safely and healthily lose 50 pounds in a month. Pick a goal that is realistic.

### #2 Be Specific

You should still pick a specific goal. Saying "I want to spend more time reading the Bible" will be less motivating and more difficult to measure than saying "I want to spend 30 minutes every day reading the Bible."

### #3 Have a plan

Make a multistep plan for how you're going to achieve your goal. For example, if your goal is to lose 30 pounds through diet and exercise, one step might be to join the gym, the second to meet with an exercise professional and nutritionist and develop a plan, and the third to work towards your weight loss goal.

### #4 Get help

Accountability is very important in attaining goals. Find an accountability partner, or someone to help you with your goal! Other people probably want to achieve the same goal you do. Don't be afraid to ask for help at work, at church, or on social media. Doing things together makes them more fun too!

### #5 Start on Monday

For whatever reason, research shows that people who start a resolution on a Monday have more success. Perhaps it's the start of a new week. So maybe this year you should have fun the weekend after New Year's and start your resolutions on Monday!

~ Ariel Boswell / FPC Parish Nursing Advisory Council

## Implementation Committee reports on progress in multi-purpose room

Multipurpose room update: There's been a lot of hammering, cutting, and painting going on the last few months in the multipurpose room below the atrium. Take a few minutes to check it out when you are at church. Especially note the colorful chalk boards that have been hung and the painted walls. If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please contact someone on the Implementation Committee.

**Jim Walts and Ron Kreinbring** have led the most recent improvement projects.

~ Bev Lewis / Implementation Committee




## 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)

Our thanks to all who participated in helping made the music of Advent and Christmas particularly meaningful to the worshipping congregation: choirs, instrumentalists, First Players, handbell choirs, soloists and ensembles, as well as the readers for Lessons and Carols.

 Singing and ringing schedule for January			
	8:30	11:00	Both
January 3	Chancel Choir		Flute Ensemble
January 10	Chancel Choir		
January 17	Chancel Choir		
January 24	Chancel Choir		
January 31		Chancel Choir Youth Choir	Alleluia Rngrs

Please join us in one of our many choirs as a way to glorify God through your musical talents. Our choirs consist of volunteers of varying degrees of musical experience. All are welcome!



## Music Ministry adds depth to Advent events

A note of thanks to all the singers, instrumentalists, ringers, readers, ushers, staff, and supportive families and friends who enabled us to offer the Services of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 13.

Our annual musical and scriptural offering for worship was very well-received and appreciated. Thanks to the many who expressed their appreciation for the worship experience during Advent. Blessings at the new year!

~ Lee J. Afdahl / Director of Music and Organist



## Stewardship 2016

### Budget needs estimated at \$800,000; available funds reach \$761,152



Thank you for your response to our pledge campaign for 2016. Your responses have been supportive and we appreciate it. We just need more responses returned.

Including both general and outreach budgets, as of December 17 we had \$761,152 (including pledged and non-pledged income) committed for 2016. To fund committees' current budgets and allow for some growth we need about \$800,000, leaving us a gap of about \$39,000..

If you haven't returned your pledge card yet, please do it as soon as possible, even if you aren't planning to make a pledge at this time Thanks!

More complete information will be available in the Annual Reports and in the February Good News.

Thank you again - you're VSP! (Very Special People)

~ Stewardship and Finance Committee

### Per Capita assessed at \$32.87 per member for 2016

As local church members, we have an obligation to support our higher judicatories. This per capita assessment supports overhead expenses of our church, including presbytery, synod, and general assembly.

The amount due each judicatory is set at the particular unit's meeting during the summer and is based on membership on December 31 of the previous year. Our membership on December 31, 2014 was 744. The assessment per active member includes \$20.60 for presbytery, \$5.25 for synod, and \$7.02 for general assembly.

Even if you choose to not pledge, we urge you to consider making a donation of at least \$32.87 per member to help us underwrite this budget item of \$24,455.28. Thank you!

### Annual Reports due January 18

Each year our church activities are summarized in the "Annual Reports to the Congregation." This year these reports must be available to the congregation on January 24, the Sunday prior to the annual meeting on January 31. If you are responsible for writing a report on some facet of our church life, please note they are due **Monday, January 18**. The best ones are sent (prior to the deadline) to Carol via e-mail ([fpc\\_carol@hotmail.com](mailto:fpc_carol@hotmail.com)) or a Word attachment to an e-mail!

Thank you for your help!

*Great beauty, great strength, and great riches are really and truly of no great use; a right heart exceeds all. (Benjamin Franklin)*

### Statements will be mailed second week in January

We will mail final statements for 2015 about January 7. The statement format will list each eligible charitable contribution made to First Presbyterian during 2015. For those who itemize deductions on their income tax return, this format meets the IRS requirement for substantiation of contributions.

### Pick up your pledge envelopes

Please pick up your pledge envelopes in the social hall by January 31. Envelopes are prepared for adults who contribute regularly (unless you told us you don't want envelopes or you use ACH), for new members, and for children (pre-kindergarten through senior high) who want them.

Because many of you don't use offering envelopes, we've cut down the number we order. If we inadvertently left your name off the envelope list, please let us know. It's actually more cost efficient for us if you use envelopes.

If there isn't a box with your name and you would like one, if you've never used envelopes and you'd like to, or if your children would like a box, we have extras and would be happy to give you one.

#### *Weather-related concerns*

### Caution suggested as winter arrives

If we need to cancel services due to extreme weather conditions, we will send that announcement to KTTC-TV, KTTC.com, put it on our WEB page [FPCRochester.org](http://FPCRochester.org), put it on the church's answering machine, and send you an e-mail (if we have your e-mail address and if there's time). Whenever canceling is a possibility, please check these sources for up-to-date information.

In this winter season when conditions can create slippery walkways, the Buildings & Grounds Committee asks all members be responsible and wear appropriate footwear made for snow and ice and choose the safest path from your car into the building. FPC Facility Manager **Harry Coleman** did a great job last season keeping the church walks as clear of snow/ice as possible, but each of us must also do our part for safety by exercising caution and discretion. Here's to a safe winter season!

### Deacons underwrite cab service for members to attend church activities

For several years the Board of Deacons has offered a cab service to bring members to \*ANY\* activity at FPC, e.g. Sunday worship, Ash Wednesday or Maundy Thursday services, Festival of Music programs, special fellowship events, or Circle activities. To use this service you need a voucher available in the church office. You make your own arrangement with Med City Taxi and then give the voucher to the cab driver instead of cash.

You are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to get to church the easy way, especially when winter sets in and driveways become icy and roads snowy.

See you in church!





## 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:** January 18 at 1 p.m. in the lounge. Hostesses: **Marcia Dollerschell** and **Naomi Spiekerman**. Devotions: **Mary VanDerHeyden**. Bible study: **Martha Sessler**.

**Priscilla Circle:** January 20 at 9:15 a.m. in the lounge. Hostesses: **Lois Fye** and **Jeannine Karnes**. Devotions: **Judy Smithson**. Program: **Judy Smithson** (Bible Study lessons 1 and 2). Project: Paper products for Hope Lodge.

**Ruth Circle:** January 16 at 10 a.m. in the lounge. **Jan Sherman** will be the hostess and **Mary Huie** will present lesson 5 in the Bible Study, *Come to the Waters*.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Join us Thursday, January 14 at 1 p.m. in the lounge for an afternoon of knitting, crocheting and fellowship! Please contact **Elizabeth Remfert** (269-5272) or **Susie McClocklin** (288-7772) if you or someone you know would find comfort from a prayer shawl.

*January is FPC's month to furnish paper products and other requested items for Hope Lodge. A list of needed items and a box in which to put your contributions are in the foyer. Thank you for your help.*

## Women return to Eagle Bluff for retreat March 11-13

Plan to attend FPC's women's retreat at Eagle Bluff Environmental Center near Lanesboro March 11-13. The retreat begins with supper on Friday and ends after lunch on Sunday. The theme is "Show Him Your Hands." The cost is \$120. Send checks (made out to PW) to **Peg Parsons** or put your check in the PW box in the office. Questions? Contact **Alice Kerr** (288-1755).

## Labels and Boxtops provide software and books for Kemmerer Village

Keep those Labels for Education and Boxtops for Education coming! These help Kemmerer Village in Assumption, Illinois, a Presbyterian child care agency. The Campbell's label program provides educational software and reference books for the cottages. The General Mills boxtop program has helped purchase books for the Village library as well as help fund the Reading Counts Program in their on-grounds school.

In 2015 **Juanita Heikes**, organizer, turned in labels worth 575 points and boxtops worth 875 points. Kemmerer Village welcomes visitors if you are in the area. A container for your labels and boxtops is in the foyer.

## Church Family News

### Anniversaries

Congratulations to **David and Char Ellefson** who will celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary January 11.

Congratulations to **Gordon and Sondra Danielson** who will celebrate their 54th wedding anniversary January 21.

### Birthdays

Happy Birthday to **Marie Bolton** who will celebrate her 92nd birthday January 3.

Happy Birthday to **Jane Irving** who will celebrate her 93rd birthday January 6.

Happy Birthday to **Pat Gastineau** who will celebrate her 91st birthday January 23.

## Crafter's Group welcomes young and old



The Crafters Group will meet Wednesday, January 20, 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*

## A New Year's blessing

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you when people and their causes  
need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.  
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you  
for the year ahead.



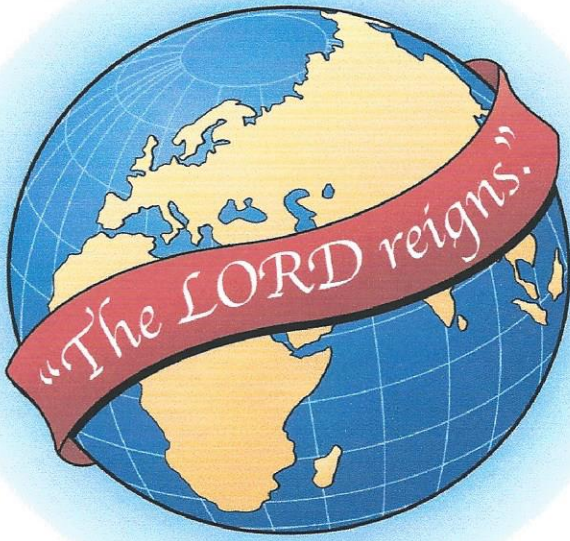
### Financial Statement November 2015

#### General Operating Budget

Balance (10/31/15)	\$ 13,149.22
Receipts (November)	+ 61,036.22
Disbursements (November)	- 64,546.73
Balance (11/30/15)	\$ 9,638.71



Say among  
the nations,



Psalm 96:10

First Presbyterian Church  
P. O. Box 906  
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January  
2016

## January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday schedule</b>					1	2
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.		Happy New Year! <b>Church closed</b> No school / Winter bre...	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Communion Flute Ensemble (both services) 8:30 AM Chancel Choir sings	School resumes FPC@Community Food Response	Deacons moved to 1/19/16 Most committees meet/ check w/lead elder 9:30 AM Staff meeting	Epiphany Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual 1:00 PM Charter House worship and communion 5:45 PM Supper 6:30 PM Bible Study	Mail 2015 year-end statements 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir		9:30 AM "Undecorate" the church party
<b>Seek joy in what you give, not in what you get.</b>						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) 8:30 AM Chancel Choir sings 9:30 AM Blood Pressure/Parish Nursing 9:30 AM New officer orientation 11:00 AM Civilization/Installation of officers		9:30 AM Staff meeting 7:15 PM FOM Cmte	Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual 5:45 PM Supper 6:30 PM Bible Study	1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	Newsletter items due	10:00 AM Ruth Circle
Photography for pictorial directory (12 noon-9:30 p.m.)						Photography (7:30-4 p.m.)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) 8:30 AM Chancel Choir sings	All annual reports due 1:00 PM Esther Circle <b>No School/MLKing Day</b> <b>Church closed</b>	9:30 AM Staff meeting 5:30 PM Souper Supper / Deacons & Elders 7:00 PM Deacons/Lounge 7:00 PM Session/FireSide Run	Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual 9:15 AM Priscilla Circle 3:00 PM Crafters Group 5:45 PM Supper 6:30 PM Bible Study	6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir		9:00 AM Presbytery/Valley Community/Golden Valley
FPC hosts Interfaith Hospitality Network (1/17-24)						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Pick up Annual Reports Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) 8:30 AM Chancel Choir sings	7:00 PM Endowment Cmte	9:30 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Chancel Guild	Mail newsletter Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual 5:45 PM Supper 6:30 PM Bible Study	6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	Sanctuary reserved/FOM	Sanctuary reserved/FOM
31						
Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Alleluia Rngs rings (both) 9:40 AM Annual Meeting 9:40 AM SS/through gr 7 only 11:00 AM Chancel/Youth Choirs sing 1:00 PM FOM/Luther College Nordic Choir	<b>Wednesday youth schedule</b>					
	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)		