



PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

114 EAST JEFFERSON STREET † OTTAWA, IL 61350
(815)433-1045

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

VOLUME 39 No. 1

JANUARY 2015



**KEEP
CHRIST
AND
CARRY
ON**

OUR MISSION

TO BE THE
LOVING
COMMUNITY OF
JESUS CHRIST
THAT WILL

WIN

NEW FOLLOWERS
OF CHRIST TO
SAVING FAITH

GROW

ALL FOLLOWERS
TO DEEPER FAITH

GO

INTO THE
WORLD AND
DEMONSTRATE
FAITH

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Christmas Joy and New Year greetings to you all! As we begin 2015, let us consider anew how we can *KEEP CHRIST AND CARRY ON*. I look forward to our continued study together of that subject in our Sunday sermon series on Colossians. I am also grateful for the many of you who are doing this very thing so faithfully...in your personal lives and in our congregation's life. One group that has been faithfully praying and thinking together in this regard, and as it relates to our Presbyterian denomination, is the General Assembly Issues Task Force. You have read about their work over the last several months in FPC's newsletter. Please take a moment to read their own update of their status below as they share their work and describe their next steps and completion. I am very thankful to their chairman, Ron Koestler, and to all seven members for what they are doing on our behalf. Good work!

Wanting to *KEEP CHRIST AND CARRY ON* with you,
Pastor John Walker

An Update from the Task Force on Denominational Issues

As you may know, our Session has formed a task force charged with recommending how Session should respond to last summer's actions by General Assembly concerning gay marriage.

(Continued on pg. 3)

Your First Presbyterian Church Family believes in the power of prayer. (See Romans 1:9b). You are hereby given the name of someone we ask you to pray for until you receive your next Presby Press.

You are encouraged to contact that person with a card, note, phone call or personal visit so they know you are praying for them this month. Be assured that your name is being given to another to also pray for you this month.

May God's richest blessings be with you always!

Yours in Christ, Discipleship Committee

Please clip this reminder & post it to remind you to pray for:



Kum Join Us Mitten Tree: Thanks to your generous donations, we received the most items on the tree this year than any other! There were 78 hats, 63 pairs of gloves, and 23 scarves for a total of 164 items!

The Mission Committee would like to thank the ladies that came to Scott Hall and helped us sort and alphabetize 13 boxes of books that are being shipped to Uganda for Glory Primary School's library. Your fellowship and hard work was wonderful!

SAVE THE DATE! LEARN & SERVE BUS TRIP

The Church World Service Illinois region will sponsor another bus trip to the kits warehouse and the SERRV fair trade warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland. The dates are March 22-26, 2015. We will spend time doing quality control and repacking kits, and also pricing and packaging fair trade items. Half a day will be spent in either Gettysburg or Washington DC. Cost is yet to be determined, but will probably be about \$475 per person.

Two years ago Presbyterians from Blackhawk Presbytery filled half of the bus and Ottawa First Pres had 9 people that went!!

For more information, contact Dianne Jamison or email our wonderful leader from the last time, Julia Jones, at jjones@cwsglobal.org



Do you know the FPC family members who were born outside of the USA? Anyone else born in New York? Have you added your name and birth place to the map in Scott Hall?

Reflecting on Jeremiah 1:5 "*God knew us even before we were born.*" Even though we were born to different families in many different places, God has now brought us all together as His Family at FPC in Ottawa. Take a look to see where some of our family members started out. From the East/ West or North/South but Praise God now we are all together here.

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*The Presby Press is published
monthly by
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committed
to serving.***

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343-6731

Dan Mestelle

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434-2318

Dianne Jamison

(Mission)

343-3673

Jack Finnegan

(Administration)

433-5253

Fran Hess

(Administration)

433-4237

Linda Lindeman

(Fellowship & Outreach)

431-9904

Gayle Schmitt

(Fellowship & Outreach)

667-4964

Joy Huebner

(Deacon)

433-5477

Diane Farrell

(Clerk of Session)

434-2774

(continued from pg. 1)

Our task force is made up of both elders and laity, chosen to represent a cross section of the views held by members of our congregation. We have been meeting since mid-October. In preparation for our first meeting, each member was asked to review a set of materials covering the history of the gay marriage debate within our denomination, thoughts and position statements from both evangelical and progressive points of view, as well as some in-depth studies on biblical and theological perspectives on homosexuality and gay marriage. Our first order of business was to agree on a charter to focus our discussion:

With consideration to our own beliefs, the beliefs of our brothers and sisters, and our understanding of the character of FPC Ottawa, we seek to make recommendations to our session as to how they should respond to the recent actions of GA in ways that we hope will preserve the peace, unity and purity of our church, and which will allow us to focus in a positive way on our stated mission, to be the Loving Community of Jesus Christ.

Over the past two months we have addressed a variety of topics, including feedback we have received from our congregation, our congregation's stated position on marriage (as agreed to by Session on August 21, 2001), our relationship to Presbytery and to General Assembly, per-capita assessments, potential affiliations with groups of like-minded PCUSA congregations, and the possibility of an adult education class that we hope will help us all be better prepared to extend the love of Jesus Christ to all people, including those with same-gender attraction.

The task force is currently drafting a report that includes recommendations around each of the topics described above. We are also developing a questionnaire that we will be asking Session to distribute to members of the congregation. We hope to be able to update you on our progress at the February congregational meeting. In the mean time, please continue to pray for our work, and for the peace, unity and purity of our congregation.

If you have any questions about our work, please contact any of our members; Ron Koestler (chair), Brad Angus, Donna Burkey, Sam Ehret, Diane Kennedy, Steve Kennedy or Pete Trolinger.

The Gift of Time

Christmas; the season of giving! Whether you made homemade gifts for family and friends or purchased them in a store, we all felt the need to give! We might also have made an end of the year donation to our church or favorite non-profit. But have you considered how valuable the GIFT OF TIME is to our community? Serving others and volunteering our precious time is often a more valuable and appreciated gift to those being served.

Is serving something that you do without giving it a second thought?? No pay—just the joy of knowing you helped where there was a need.

The Mission Committee knows that our church is filled with loving, generous people who regularly reach out to others, expecting no fanfare or spotlight. But if you find yourself thinking, “I haven’t done this in a very long time, or ever” then we are talking to you! Would you be willing to reach out to one of the many non-profits in Ottawa, or make an effort to contact and help a friend in need?

As a committee, we thought it would be interesting to document for ONE MONTH the number of hours that our church members go into the community to do God’s work. If you would like to participate, please complete the form below by the end of February and drop in the offering or church office, we will compile the number of hours served as we give the GIFT OF TIME!

John 3:17-18

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

I served _____ hours for the month.

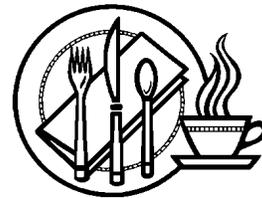
WIN, GROW, GO: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Wednesday Prayer Team:

Please come pray each Wednesday, 9 am—10 am, in the church library with a team of dedicated pray-ers lifting praises and concerns to the LORD for members of our church family, the greater Ottawa community, our missionaries and prayers for our nation and the world.

Free Community Meals; 3rd Sunday of every month: LOOKING TO FILL 2015 MONTHS!!

Might God call you to work on the community meal project? On the third Sunday of each month volunteers are needed to do the following: Organize the meal (decide what to make, plan the purchase of food); cook the meal; visit with those eating; clean up. Who can help? Anyone, any age. Are you feeling like you and your friends can be the next ones? Contact Linda Lindeman (434-9904) or Gayle Schmitt (667-4964) for more information and to sign up.



Prayer Ministry Team:

Please consider joining this group. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Library, and we would love to add to our group. Please contact any of our current team: Mike & Diane Farrell, Gayle Schmitt, Cindy Arjes, Susan Hayward, or Pastor John Walker.

Prayer Shawls: Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is still going strong.

Do you know someone who could use a hug from God (who doesn't)? Please call us so that we may provide a Prayer Shawl for you to give that "someone" who needs God's hug.

Jackie Bean 434-3380

Why not join a small group? At FPC small groups are important. Why? Because few experiences encourage and build our faith more than small groups. Small groups teach us how to better know, understand and apply God's word in daily life. They also become a place of good friendship and caring. Want to join a small group? It's easy! Just talk to Pastor John or one of the small group contacts listed below:

Mike & Diane Farrell (Sun. PM): 434-2774

John Walker (1st Sun. PM monthly): 433-1045

Betsy Feagans (Mon. PM): 433-5480

Jack & Sandy Finnegan (Thurs. AM): 433-5253

Carol Engberg/Women: 433-3465

(Thurs. PM, once a month)

Diane Kennedy (Thurs. PM): 870-740-0442

Lisa Mestelle/Women-Beth Moore Bible Study (Thurs. PM): 434-2318

Jim Keely/Men (Sat. AM): 433-0868

Handy Food Receipts

Please save your receipts and bring them to church. We can earn 1% of the receipts totals for our church! Boxes will be in Scott Hall and on the table by the church offices.

Ottawa Community Food Basket:

Donations for the Food Basket for the month of January will be **Hamburger Helpers!**

Let's fill the barrels at the entrances to our sanctuary and share our gifts with the less fortunate in our community.



Sunday Greeters needed:

We need your smiling face to greet newcomers and "oldcomers" at the front door on Sunday mornings. Please contact Chris Keely (433-0868) to pick a Sunday for you and/or your family. This is a great way to contribute to the life of your church.



LADIES' NITE OUT

Tuesday, January 6, 5:30 p.m. at
B.A.S.H. in Ottawa

Please contact:
Debbie Damron (434-3606)
for info & reservations.

All women are invited for the fun!!
Bring an extra \$1 and maybe
win a free meal!

(Menus are available to look at in the office.)

KUM JOIN US

Meets on Sunday, January 4, 12:30 p.m.
at the hospital café

All are welcome!

**COMING SOON! Q PLACE
ARTS OF SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS
ADULT ED CLASSES!**

We will be having the Q Place Arts of Spiritual
Conversations starting after the 1st of the new
year. Watch your bulletin for more details on
the time and place. Hope to see you there!!

Any questions about the classes? Contact
Cindy Arjes 815-915-1159



FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY



JANUARY

Keith Stevenson	5
Michael Hess	6
Dick Sellars	7
Betty Ehret	12
Dawn Hess	13
Jim Davey	16
Cathy Peters	21
Lois Nawrocki	22
Earl Gerding, Nathalie Schmidt	26
Debbie Walker, Dana Snook	27
Diane Kennedy, Melissa Shimizu	28
Winona Bartlett	31

FEBRUARY

Darlene Larabee	1
Cheryl Sellars	5
Nathan Hess	10
Dan Brockman	11
Idalia Stricklin	13
Noah Trolinger, Barb White	14
John Damron	15
LuAnn Atwood	18
Erin Stuedemann	19
Tiffini Thompson	24
Sue Brockman, Jackie Boaz	27
Dianne Jamison	28



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Sunday 9:00 am Fellowship 9:00 am ZONE 9:00 am Prayer 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 am WORSHIP 11:15 am Adult Ed.			Every Wed. 9:30 am Prayer, library 7:00 pm Choir Practice, library	Every Thurs. 9:30 am Seniors Small Group		Every Saturday 6:30 am Men's Small Group
				1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Happy New Year!	2	3 6:30 am Breakfast at FPC then: 8 am to Washington Park to take down pictures
4 COMMUNION 12:30 pm Kum Join Us	5	6	7	8	9	10
		5:30 pm Ladies' Nite Out				
11 10 am New Elders ordained and installed in worship 6 pm LOL4JC	12	13	14	15	16	17
		7 pm Session Committee Mtgs				
18 12:00 p.m. Community Meal 4:30 pm New Elder Training—Library	19	20	21	22	23	24
		7 pm Session				
25 4:30 pm New Elder Training—Library 6 pm LOL4JC	26	27	28	29	30	31



JANUARY

2015

First Presbyterian Church
114 East Jefferson Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Non-Profit Organization
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NEWSLETTER NOTICE:

Because of the increased cost of mailing our newsletter, we are looking for a more affordable way to dispense it. Beginning with the **February** newsletter, it will be available in several ways, but will not be mailed unless requested. It is already available on our church website at ottawafirstpres.org, plus there will be copies available to pick up on the tables entering the sanctuary and outside the church office. Plus we can email it to you as long as you contact Dianne with your correct email address. Thank you for your understanding!

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