

THE FIRST PRES

May 2007

First Presbyterian Church
Winnebago, Illinois

Page 1

Pastor's Note

When you look around, listen, and take in all that's going on in our world it can be alarming, disheartening, and confusing to say the least. No matter who you are, there are moments in time when you need the presence, encouragement, and support of other people. People who love you, people who know you, and people who care about your well-being. Sometimes though we don't always know where to turn and find the answers to our need(s).

The New Testament book of Hebrews, initially, was a letter written to the Christians of the first century church. Those people were suffering horrible persecutions. They experienced many things that discouraged them. They needed one another urgently and deeply.

In his letter to them the writer says, "Stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another." They needed the encouragement of their meeting together and being together. And so they met whatever the danger to them, they gathered regularly together.

In our gathering together, you and I do not confront the kind of danger those people did. Still we need one another no less than they did. As they could draw strength mutually from the faith and courage of one another, so can we. Their meeting at risk of their very lives stands to shame us for any indifference we may feel toward our meeting, especially since there is now involved absolutely no risk at all.

Whenever we meet together we are giving encouragement and support to one another in one of the historic essentials of Christian faith and fellowship, the meeting together of the people of Christ. So, thank you for the ministry of your presence. We miss you when you're not here. You are not forgotten. We look forward to seeing you again, and remember you in our prayers.



Session Synopsis

Is there a season that is busier than others for you? Would it be spring, summer, fall, or maybe it's winter? Every season has its demands on our time, attention and energy.

The season of spring is a busy time in the Kingdom of God. No season is without its demands and here in Winnebago, during the month of April circa 2007 many things are demanding of our time and attention.

Our Board of Elders met on Monday evening, April 16th past. We welcomed several guests. Initially, Greg Rittmeyer, representing the Board of Trustees, spoke to a number of requests submitted to us from our insurance carrier. After discussion of the nature of the request, elder Craig Clausen stated that he would assist Greg by obtaining prices for "nuclear exit signs" which are less expensive than alternatives presented.

The 2007 Confirmation Class was presented to Session by their instructor, Joe Erb. After appropriate questions, and discussion, the class members were dismissed. A motion was made, seconded and then voted to approve the confirmation class members.

The balance of the meeting focused around routine matters. Included in our discussion were: Communion servers; approval of the Treasurer's report; planned events in May (Confirmation, Graduation, Mother's Day, Sunday School Awards, and Memorial Day observation); and committee business.

We are in the process of redoing the job duty descriptions for our session committees. The discussion this month of April centered on the Christian Education Committee. We will continue the process of redoing and revising the job duty descriptions of our session committees over the coming months.

With the season of spring now in full bloom, we the members of session and staff are looking forward to the events ahead, and hope you do as well. In these ever changing times may the peace of Christ be with you, may the mind of Christ guide you, and may the promises of Christ strengthen you as you strive to serve and honor our God.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Steve and the Board of Elders



March Church Budget

Beginning checking:	\$14,512.81
Ending Checking:	\$13,771.51
March Revenue:	\$14,449.49
March Expenses:	\$15,190.79
Year Revenue:	\$37,004.58
Year Expenses:	\$37,602.88

Newsletter Articles

Newsletter articles are due on May 24, 2007. You may email them to silla2@aeroinc.net. At that time the newsletter will include two months, June and July.

Trustee Report

Our meeting for the evening was short with only two projects. The first project was the simple one of draining the gas out of the snow blowers and putting them away for the summer. The other project for the night was cleaning and scrubbing out the inside of the double refrigerator so that it is now ready for use. The Trustees would like to thank Brian & Stacy Weavel for donating the double refrigerator and transporting it to the church. The church will get many years of use from their generosity.

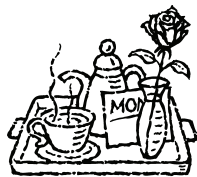
The new windows for one opening in the Sunday school addition is tentatively scheduled to be installed the last Saturday of the month.

Earlier in the month, the Trustees cleaned up the church grounds by raking and picking up sticks in preparation for another mowing season.

Respectfully Submitted,
Greg Rittmeyer

A Gift for Mom

The three young children told their mother that she wasn't to lift a finger on Mother's Day. They were going to do all the cooking. So, they got out three pots, two frying pans, six measuring spoons, three mixing bowls, a double boiler, a chopping board and eight serving dishes. Mom said it was the best Jell-O she had ever tasted!



Mother's Day

Thank You

Words cannot express the deep gratitude we feel for everything anyone did for us when Don passed away. The cards, prayers, flowers, food and memorials were deeply appreciated and just being there for us meant so much. Thank You Pastor Steve for being with us at the hospital and at the very time we needed you the most. Our church family is great and so is our entire community. May God bless each and everyone.

With Love,
Eva Jean Bachman & family

To all our friends at First Pres:

Thanks everyone for all of your cards, prayers, memorials, food, etc. during the loss of my sister.

It is so hard to lose someone so dear to us, but knowing others care means so much. May God Bless all of you!

Thanks again,
Jim & Bev Barker

Thank you to everyone who remembered me with cards, flowers and food during my recent surgery.

Also thank you for keeping me in your prayers.

God Bless you all,
Avis Lind.

VBS

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 25-29. Please watch for more information.

Deacons Minutes

The Board of Deacons held their regular meeting Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at 6:30 PM. Deacon, Bev Samsel moderated the meeting in Rosemary Runyard's absence. And, Elaine Look opened the meeting with a beautiful prayer. The minutes of the March meeting were not available, so we continued with Bev sharing several pieces of correspondence, all of them being notes expressing thanks. Jodell Brown shared the Treasurer's Report with us and it was approved by consensus. Bev then proceeded to share the "Sunshine Report" telling us recent cards sent and/or calls made by members of the deacons. Pastor Steve offered a prayer for all of the various people, families, and situations discussed. The remainder of the meeting focused on routine business, including the set up schedule for Holy Communion during the months of May through August 2007. The meeting concluded with the deacon's prayer.

Fellowship Supper Club

On May 1, 2007 the Fellowship Supper Club will be taking a tour of Bomgarden's Garden followed by dinner at Culvers. The hosts are Ted and Jean Meissen and there will be election of officers. Please meet at the church at 4:00 PM.

Mary Martha Circle

May 10, 2007 Jill Sunday and Elaine Look will be the co-hostesses for the Mary Martha Circle. It will take place at the church at 7:00 PM.

8th Grade Bibles

Parents or Grandparents of 8th graders would like to sponsor a Bible please contact Joe Erb.

Mother's Day Geraniums

The PW will be selling geraniums for Mother's Day. The monies from this will be used towards missions within and outside our church.

4 1/2" Pots are \$4.00

7" Pots are \$9.00

Red, White and Pink are available

Please make checks payable to The Presbyterian Women. Deadline for ordering is May 6, 2007. Please give your order to Avis Lind, Michelle Erb, or put it into the offering plate.

I would like to purchase:

___ Red 4/12" @ \$4.00

___ Red 7" @ \$9.00

___ White 4/12" @ \$4.00

___ White 7" @ \$9.00

___ Pink 4/12" @ \$4.00

___ Pink 7" @ \$9.00

Name _____

All Plants may be taken home after worship service on Mother's Day

Naomi Circle

Carol Meyers will be the hostess for Naomi Circle on May 15, 2007. Eleanor Oakes will have the devotions.

PW News

As you are cleaning your closets and drawers remember that Carpenter's Place has asked for donations of gently used jeans. A box will be in the foyer for your donations. I hope you have a wonderful spring and summer.

Coming events for May include:

Sunday May 13 – Mother's Day & Geranium Fund Raiser. Please get your order to Avis Lind

Sunday, May 20 - Birthday Offering Collection

Thursday, May 10 – Mary-Martha Circle will meet at the church with Jill Sunday and Elaine Look co-hostesses. Bev Samsel will have the devotions.

Tuesday, May 15– Naomi Circle will meet at Carol Meyer's home. Eleanor Oakes will have the devotions

God Bless!
Sue Jansen, Moderator



BIRTHDAY OFFERING **Recognition of our Heritage.**

Begun by Hallie Paxson Winsborough in 1922.

Received in the spring and dedicated to specific mission projects chosen in advance with a set goal.

Purpose to support specific projects worldwide, to meet the needs of “hurting” people.

Who decides what projects? The Creative Ministries Offering Committee before the offering is taken. The offerings are for predetermined projects selected by the Creative Ministries Committee. No more than three projects will be chosen each year and each must meet the needs of hurting people in accordance with the mission concerns and policies of the Presbyterian Church USA. The projects will be announced in the Jan/Feb issue of “Horizons” and they will be interpreted in the March issue.

Women are challenged to give a penny for each year of their lives or a dollar as a “birthday gift” to mission. Since 1922, \$28,505,445 has been raised to support mission projects. In the last fifteen years the contributions have been between \$750,000 - \$965,000 annually.

Last year we collected and submitted \$255.00 for this cause



Friendship Day Is This Month!

Friendship Day is the first Friday in May. It's important to choose your friends wisely. There are Proverbs in the Bible about friends.

Use the code to fill in the blanks and read Proverbs 22:11.

	1	2	3	4	5
■	A	B	C	D	E
▲	F	G	H	I	
●	J	K		L	M
■	N	O	P	Q	R
☆		S	T	U	V
◆	W	X	Y		Z

3▲ 5■ 1◆ 3▲ 2■ 4● 2■ 5☆ 5■ 2☆ 1■

3■ 4☆ 5■ 5■ 3▲ 5■ 1■ 5■ 3☆

1■ 1■ 4■ 1◆ 3▲ 2■ 2☆ 5■

2☆ 3■ 5■ 5■ 3■ 3▲ 4▲ 2☆

2▲ 5■ 1■ 3■ 4▲ 2■ 4☆ 2☆ 1◆ 4▲ 4● 4●

3▲ 1■ 5☆ 5■ 3☆ 3▲ 5■ 2● 4▲ 1■ 2▲

1▲ 2■ 5■ 3▲ 4▲ 2☆ 1▲ 5■ 4▲ 5■ 1■ 4■

Answer: He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend.

Send a LETTER to a Friend

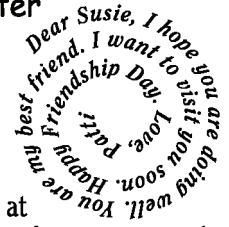


Materials you'll need:

- ✂ Paper
- ✎ Something to write with – pencil, pen, crayon or marker
- ✂ Scissors
- ✉ Envelope
- ✉ First Class stamp – 37¢

Spiral Letter

Write a letter to a special friend. Make the letter fun by writing in a spiral. Start at the top corner of your paper and rotate the paper as you write. Your words will spiral into the center of the page.



Puzzle Letter

Draw and color a picture of you and your friend. Sign your name and then cut your picture into 6 or 8 pieces. Don't make the pieces too small or it will be hard for your friend to put them together.

Put your letter or puzzle pieces in the envelope. Address the envelope, put the stamp on and mail it to your friend or deliver it in person.