

The WFPC News

The First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago

February 2012

Monthly Newsletter

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Pastor's Note

Yes, old man winter is here, and with him comes the familiar problems he brings. But, it doesn't have to be winter for us to experience problems. They can occur at any time. When people run up against problems and find it too much for them, one swears, one gets a headache, one gets drunk, and one prays. What do you do? Do you swear? Do you try to find someone to blame? Do you lash out in hostility? Do you run away? Do you drug yourself? Or do you consider the problem prayerfully and listen for God? That's what Joseph did, and it worked.

Maybe this is why Jesus went often into the wilderness alone to do some praying and listening. Perhaps he learned from father Joseph how to listen for God's will. Joseph was big enough to listen. What a wonderful quality! Joseph was big enough to obey as well. Even when it was hard to do, Joseph listened and heard God's command. Then he had the courage to act, to obey, to do God's will.

When I think of obedience to God, so many dramatic images flood my mind. There is Job, facing pain and disaster, saying, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him!" (Job 13:15). There is Moses, confronting the awesome power of the Pharaoh and saying, "Let my people go!" (Exodus 5:1). There is the missionary Elizabeth Elliot, who went back to work with the Auca Indians after they had brutally murdered her family. She is reported to have said that she was certain of one thing: that she must obey God. And, there is George Frederick Handel. Every time I hear the "Hallelujah Chorus," I think of how it almost didn't get written. Handel's life was beset with problems. His health and his fortune had reached the lowest ebb. His right side had become paralyzed, and all his money was gone. His creditors seized him and threatened him with imprisonment. For a brief time, he was tempted to quit, to give up the fight; but then, like Joseph, his obedience to God welled up within him, and he rebounded to compose his greatest work, the epic

Messiah, the second part of which ends with the powerful "Hallelujah Chorus"

The best example of obedience is Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. In the shadow of a dark, looming, painful crucifixion on the cross, he prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." (Matthew 26:42).

If love was the key quality in Jesus' life and character, then obedience ran a close second. We are touched by his compassion and mercy and kindness, but at the center of his life was a tremendous, unwavering obedience to God's will.

It is often said, "Like father, like son." Joseph, too, is the picture of obedience. Despite shame, uncertainty, and fear, Joseph had the courage to do what God asked him to do. Do you?

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steve



Session Synopsis

The first meeting of any group is always important. You want to start off on the right foot, and become familiar with how things are done. Current members of Session are: Pastor Steve, Susie Newkirk, Craig Clausen, Richard Meyer, Norm Dean, Jill Sunday and Paul Haeflinger. We added new Session members Rick Carr, Judy Mitchell, Dan Rebholtz, and Jake Smith.

We reviewed the process of conducting our meeting, and then jumped right in, opening in prayer. The minutes of the December meeting were read and approved as presented.

Clerk Craig Clausen shared a couple items of communication. Our membership in the Winnebago Chamber of Commerce is up for renewal which we renewed for another year.

The Board then reviewed the Treasurer's Report for December, and it was approved as presented.

Pastor Steve lead us in discussion through a number of items of business. We will seek to secure the Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserve as the sight for "Worship in the Park". This outdoor worship service takes place in July.

Pastor Steve informed the session of the specific commissions our new elders will be given oversight of, and some of the job responsibilities included in the work of each commission.

One new responsibility of the Board of Elders, is to track and provide oversight and information on large expenses. One example would be the church gas bill.

Elder Rick Carr will be contacting the Board of Trustees and making inquiry about establishing a maintenance program for the church boiler.

Vacation Bible School has been set for the week of June 18 – 22, 2012.

Beginning on Wednesday evening, February 22, we will enter into the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service held in the chapel at 6:30 p.m. Prior to the service will be a Soup Supper in the fellowship hall at 5:30 p.m.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Steve and the Board of Elders

Trustees

The board of Trustees would like to say thank you to Kevin Rittmeyer for his 3 years of service and welcome Jim Morrison as he joins the board.

This month we replaced light bulbs in the center fixture in the choir loft. We repaired one of the movable bulletin boards in the nursery and also cut some boards to keep the upper windows in place in the the adult Sunday school room.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Rittmeyer

Deacons

The Deacons met on January 17, at 6:30 p.m. with eight members present. Co-moderator, Sue L. welcomed everyone and Pastor Steve led us in prayer. The minutes from the November meeting were read and approved. Much correspondence was also read. It was good to receive thank you notes from so

many of the shut-ins we visit. The treasurer's report was given by Norma. Shirley gave the sunshine report with many cards sent out for sympathy, get wells and thinking of you.

Pastor Steve gave an update on members of the congregation and community who need our prayers. Then he led us in prayer.

Deacons hosted the Annual Meeting / Pot-Luck on January 22. We will also host the fellowship after church on February 5. Sign-up sheets were passed around for members to sign up for what they should bring for these events.

Shirley showed samples of Valentine gift bags for our shut-in friends for Valentine's Day. She will make assignments for deliveries. The gifts will be available at church on February 5 for Deacons to pick up.

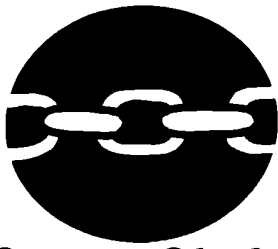
The assignments for preparing the elements for communion on February 4 & 5, are as follows: Sue L. - loaves, Elaine - cubes and Debbie - juice. Preparation time will be 3 p.m. on Saturday and communion will be served in the pews.

Pastor Steve gave a few pointers to our current Deacons and the new members about what to do and say when we are visiting the sick.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 21, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. There being no other business the meeting was closed with the reciting of the Deacon's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Jansen, Secretary



Prayer Chain

Our Prayer Chain...

If you have a prayer request for the phone prayer chain, please call Bev Barker at 815-335-2963 or Sue Luna at 815-335-2186. Please leave a message, as it will be later checked to see that Pastor Steve has been notified and the information has been placed on the church e-mail prayer chain.

If you wish to place a prayer request on the church e-mail the address is:

prayer@thewfpc.org

These requests will be started on the phone prayer chain by Bev Barker.

Please note:

If you would like to be taken off the prayer chain or put on the prayer chain please call Bev or Sue.

Outreach Opportunity

Members from our congregation volunteer at the Rockford Rescue Mission on the first Friday of each month. They serve prepared meals at 6 p.m. After the meal is served and the dining area is cleaned up, they stay and have fellowship with the Program men (those who are committed to change in their life). They order pizza, and take turns bringing pop, cookies and snacks. Games are then played with the men. Everyone looks forward to this, some of them have done



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

it for over 14 years! If you are interested contact anyone listed.

Bev Barker	815-335-2963
Jodell Brown	815-335-2202
Merle Fender	815-335-2727
Dixie Lancaster	815-968-5422
Jean Meissen	815-335-2601
Dee Taylor	815-335-2007

PW

Women of the church

After many names were suggested and discussed, we have picked a great name for the newly combined circles, the new name for the circle is Ruth. We had our first meeting on Tuesday, January 17, at 1:30 p.m. at the church. 15 ladies gathered for a Bible Study on the Beatitudes, our business meeting and fellowship. We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Officers for the Ruth Circle are:

Moderator -- Faye Reed, Vice-Moderator – Carol Meyers, Secretary – Sue Jansen, Treasurer – Eleanor Oakes, World Service – Corrine Gusloff, Least Coin – Dixie Leden and Bev Samsel, Hunger Fund – Carol Schmoock, Sunshine – Bev Baker, and Devotions – Judy Mitchell.

More suggestions have come forth for updates to the kitchen. They are being reviewed and evaluated.

Ash Wednesday is February 22. Prior to the evening service will be the first one of

the three soup suppers. Other nights for soup suppers are March 7 and March 21. A free will offering will be appreciated. Offering goes to the "One Great Hour of Sharing."

Plans have begun for the World Day of Prayer Service that will be on Friday, March 2. Middle Creek, Burritt Community and Winnebago Methodist come together each year on a rotating basis. Our church is hosting the event. We will be learning about the country of Malaysia. Bonnie Gray is coordinator. Please join us for a very interesting program.

Sunday, March 18 will be the day for the Birthday Offering. Sheree Sensel is the coordinator. Begun in 1922, the Birthday Offering celebrates Presbyterian women's history of mission giving. In 2012, the offering will fund three projects. They are **Circle of Friends: Celebrating Life, Inc., Living Water for Girls**, Peachtree, Georgia, **New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children, Gymnasium and Activity Center**, Tulcea, Romania, and **Synod of the Sun, Solar Under the Sun**, Irving, Texas.

The 2012 PW Dial will be available soon. Everyone, please pick one up to keep track of the upcoming events.

Jill Sunday, PW Moderator

Lenten Soup Suppers are back!

Wednesdays:

February 22

March 7

March 21



Join us for soup, dessert and fellowship

**A free will offering will be taken,
donations will be given to
The One Great Hour of Sharing**

**Dinner is at 5:30 p.m.
Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.**



Thank you notes...

A special thank you to the many members of our church family for their expressions of care and concern, phone calls, e-mails and prayers, for us during Richard's recent surgery. Additionally, a special thank you to Pastor Steve, Bev Barker, Jodell Brown, Eva Jean Bachman and Merle Fender, all who so graciously spent part of their day with us at the hospital.

Richard and Loretta Meyer

Thank you to the newsletter ladies: Betsy Menge, Corrine Gusloff, Eva Jean Bachman, and Carol Schmooch.

Deadline for the March newsletter is February 15.

Contact Information

Session- Craig Clausen
craignlinda@aol.com

Deacons- Bev Barker
goats@aeroinc.net

Trustees- Greg Rittmeyer
glrittmeier@frontier.com

PW- Jill Sunday
jss1128@comcast.net

Service Helpers

The Session has asked church members to take turns helping out at our Worship services. You will receive a letter listing your day to help. Thank you for your time and service.

Greeters:

Dave & Karen Meyer
 Richard & Loretta Meyer
 Stan & Carol Meyers
 Dave & Julie Nichols

Ushers:

Norm Dean, Jeff Gray, Skip Leden, Dan Rebholz, Chuck Rittmeyer, Greg Rittmeyer, Kevin Rittmeyer and volunteers

Projectionists:

Josh Luna, Jake Smith

Acolytes:

Michael Cunningham, Katie Erb
 Emma Storey, Hayley Starkey
 Kaleigh Freimuth, Avery Williams
 Avery Schaller, Ella Maher

Church Budget

Figures not available at this time.

Youth News

No youth report was available.

Our Church Groups

Ruth Circle

The two circles have combined and become Ruth Circle. We will meet on the third Tuesday of the month (February 21) at 1:30 p.m. at the church.

Fellowship Supper Club

For our February meeting the date falls on Valentine's Day, how exciting! We are inviting anyone who is interested, to join us for a dinner catered by Culver's and then a program will follow. There will be a small charge for the dinner. Jean Meissen and Jim & Bev Barker are your hosts.

Chicks with Sticks

Chicks with Sticks will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. at Ann Fuller's home. If you like to knit or crochet, join us as we work on various outreach projects. Questions? Call Ann at 815-335-7402.



February 2012

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	Jan	30	31	1	Feb	2	3
9 - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30am Worship		5:30 - 7:00pm Girl Scouts #3185 6:30pm Praise Band	7:00pm Boy Scouts #705	7:00pm First TEAM		Youth at WinterXtreme	
						6:00pm Rockford Rescue Mission	5:00pm Worship
5		6	7	8	9	10	11
Youth at WinterXtreme		6:30pm Praise Band 7:00pm Boy Scout Patrol Leader Council	5:30pm - 6:30pm Pack 5 7:00pm Boy Scouts #705	6:00pm Daisies #3367	7:00pm Trustees		5:00pm Worship
9 - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship - Deacons 6:00pm Band Boosters							
12		13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00am - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am - 11:30am Worship		5:30pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts #3185 6:30pm Praise Band	6:00pm Fellowship Supper Club 7:00pm Boy Scouts #705 7:00pm Chicks W Sticks	6:00pm Daisies #3367 7:00pm First TEAM - Prairie View game night	7:00pm Session		5:00pm Worship
19		20	21	22	23	24	25
9 - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30am Worship		7:00pm Boy Scout Committee Meeting	1:30pm Ruth Circle 5:30pm - 6:30pm Pack 5 6:30pm Deacons 7:00pm Boy Scouts #705	Ash Wednesday 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:30pm Lenten Worship Service			5:00pm Worship
26		27	28	29	1	Mar	2
9 - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30am Worship		5:30pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts #3185 6:30pm Praise Band	7:00pm Boy Scouts #705 7:00pm Chicks W Sticks	6:00pm Daisies #3367	7:00pm Trustees	6:00pm Rockford Rescue Mission	5:00pm Worship



Your invited...

**Fellowship Supper Club is having
a catered Valentine's Day Dinner and party**

Anyone who is interested is welcome to join us!

**The meal will be catered by Culver's,
the cost is \$5.**



**If you are interested please call:
Jean Meissen at 815-335-2601**



or

Bev Barker at 815-335-2963

