



The Epistle

November 2014
Volume 2014-11

Upcoming Events



- 11/9—Sunday School Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- 11/10— BUNKO
- 11/11— Cancer Support Group
- 11/3—TLC
- 11/16—Church Auction
- 11/17—Session
- 11/23—Sunday School Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- 11/30—Sunday School Christmas Pageant Rehearsal



Thank you to EVERYONE who participated on October 26! Here's what happened:

Following an abbreviated, contemplative-style worship service, Craig Engel led the conversation, beginning by dividing everyone into four groups. These groups spent time together brainstorming ideas of what we might do to live into our vision in four areas: Fellowship, Christian Education, Social Concerns and Miscellaneous (Finance, Membership, Staffing, Member Care). Elaine Bishop, Carol Dillard, Stephanie West and Nate Willems acted as recorders.

Then, everyone was given two stickers to “vote” for the ideas they thought were the most important for us to work on. Well over one hundred ideas were presented.

The top vote getters were:

- Warming Station for sledders
- Community Project every 2-3 months
- Facebook Page—Blog/Website
- Plan for current and sustainable financial future
- Standardized curriculum

What are the next steps? A Long Range Planning and Implementation Team (made up of Visioning Task Force members, Session members, and others identified by those two groups) will work together with Session to further analyze, prioritize and develop an Action Plan for implementation. Obviously, it is unrealistic to think we can implement all the ideas, and one of the considerations is whether each idea fits into our visioning statement.

But we are so grateful for the creativity and faithfulness represented on these lists! Truly we are *Striving to live as Jesus did—confronting injustice with love, compassion, service.*



Watch for further information on how we move forward. And please continue to keep this work in your prayers!

Pastor Lori

First Presbyterian Church

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We're on the web:
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NEWS & Notes



Bunko— Monday, November 10th, Fellowship Hall, 6:00 pm



Cancer Support Group — Tuesday, November 11th, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 pm

Program: “Advances in Radiation Oncology”

Radiation is one of the treatment options of cancer and the Hall Radiation Center has been serving patients from Eastern Iowa for over 60 years. The have continued to be in the forefront in offering the most advanced treatment available for patients in Eastern Iowa, with most recently adding the True Beam technology.



TLC—Thursday, November 13th, Children’s Wing, 6:30 PM



Church Auction—Sunday, November 16th after Worship, Lunch at 11:00 am and Auction to follow in Fellowship Hall



Session Meeting— November 17th, Community Room, 6:30 pm

Watch Us on YouTube!



Did you miss a service or want to watch one again?

Carl Riechers continues to record our Sunday services and now uploads them to our very own channel (FirstPresMV) on YouTube!
Find it any of these three ways:

- Click on the link on our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon)
- Search “FirstPresMV” at youtube.com
- Go to www.youtube.com/user/FirstPresMV

Hey, Facebook Users!



Want another way to find out what’s going on at church? Be sure to ‘Like’ *First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon* on Facebook! We use this page to promote events, post photos, and the occasional encouragement or interesting link.

SESSION MEMBERS

Sue Deibner
 Paul Jerabek
 Amy Weber
 Stephanie West (2nd term)

James Cannon (youth elder)
 Lyz Erlandson (youth elder)

Those continuing their
 service are:

Becky Ahrens
 Pam Mott (2nd term)
 Rozanne Petrick (2nd term)
 Beth Simon
 Nate Willems

SERVING OUR CHURCH:

Clerk of Session: Rozanne
 Petrick

Christian Education: Amy
 Weber & Sue Deibner

Adult Forum: Roger Johanson

Fellowship: (Pam Mott is a
 member of this committee)

Finance/Stewardship: Becky
 Ahrens

Member Care: Beth Simon,
 Nate Willems, & Sue Deibner

Memorial: Rozanne Petrick

Outreach:

Personnel: Pam Mott

Building & Property: Paul
 Jerabek

Social Concerns: Beth Simon
 and Nate Willems

Worship:



- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 3—Paula Kamerling | 19—Marianne Taylor |
| 5—Connie Proffitt | 20—James Minor |
| 5—Carl Riechers | 21—Carol Dillard |
| 6—Rita Swales | 21—Rehanna Rexroat |
| 8—Ann Cannon | 23—Lynn Boettcher |
| 8—Terry Kaplan | 26—Ben Simon |
| 9—Pearl Martin | 29—Samattha Bennett |
| 12—Cooper Becthold | 29—Ellis Burge |
| 16—Beth McCollum | 29—Ann Halsey Helgeson |
| 17—Amy Weber | 30—Uwen Boettcher |
| 18—Mildred Grubbs | |

Please contact the church office if we missed your birthday.



Save the Date!

Fall Auction on Sunday, November 16 at 11:00 am

It's never too early to plan ahead! Mark your calendars and invite your family and friends to this year's Annual Fall Auction. It is not only a fun event, it is an important fundraiser for the budget.

Just a few of the fabulous items up for auction:

- Baby quilts and blankets
- Dinners: beautiful farm setting; ribs and all the fixin's; New Orleans shrimp boil
- Mystery Trip with Pam & Dixie (always fun!)
- Paintings by Katrina Garner and Mike Ryan
- Homemade Pie Every-Other-Month
- Garden Quilt (wooden, barn-style)

Invite a friend to join us! Please contact Rita Swales, Laura Werkman, or Pam Mott with questions or ideas.



THANK YOU for Making a Difference!

October was a busy month for First Pres MV as we served our neighbors in need in a variety of ways.

Sunday, October 5th CROP Walk

CROP Walks happen across the country every year as a way to raise financial support for Church World Service's efforts to bring basic human needs (e.g. food and clean water) to people around the world who need them.

Beth Simon organized our church's participation.
Becky Ahrens and Carol Daly helped with registration.
 The Kids took CROP Walk on and, well, WALKED with it!
Matt Erlandson, Kim Erlandson, Allan Recalde, Ben Recalde, Joey Recalde, Matt Recalde, Amy Weber, Trevor Weber



Sunday, October 5th Sunday Evening Meals Program

The first Sunday every other month our church provides 8-10 volunteers to help feed a free meal to anyone who needs or wants it at First Pres in Cedar Rapids. Thanks to those who helped out in October!

Matt Erlandson, Kim Erlandson, Larry Petrick, Ben Recalde, Joey Recalde, Matt Recalde, Amy Weber, Trevor Weber



Wednesday, October 22nd Abbe Hills Farm Visit

A group of our kids and youth (PreK-HS) helped *Laura Krouse* pull up just some of the irrigation tape in her gardens. Then Laura gave us a tour of the farm, sampling sweet peppers (and some not so sweet ones), munching on leaves and pulling up radishes. We ended with a bonfire, hotdogs and s'mores. Thanks to all who helped!

Brad Becthold, Cooper Becthold, Jaegen Becthold, Teddy Bonewald, Kim Erlandson, Matt Erlandson, Drew Heck, Matt Heck, Ben Recalde, Joey Recalde, Amy Weber, Jayden Weber, Trevor Weber, Stephanie West, Ava Willems, Emery Willems, and Lori Wunder



October Delivery of Meals on Wheels

Each month, South East Linn Community Center relies on volunteers to deliver meals to older adults and people with disabilities in Mount Vernon who rely on Meals on Wheels to help meet their daily nutritional needs. Helping out during October were the following people:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Becky Ahrens</i> | <i>Mary Clare Coulter</i> |
| <i>Susan Alexander</i> | <i>Denver & Carol Dillard</i> |
| <i>Barb Bjork</i> | <i>Jay Gunn</i> |
| <i>Connie Boettcher</i> | <i>Pam Mott</i> |
| <i>Jim & Teddy Bonewald</i> | <i>Angie & Bernie Paulson</i> |
| <i>Susan Brust</i> | <i>Tom Simon</i> |

And thanks to *Beth Simon* for coordinating our volunteers!

Christian Education for Children and Youth

The Children's Christmas Pageant is coming!

This year the pageant will be more "back to basics," telling the story of Jesus birth and singing traditional carols. Children PreK through Grade 6 are welcome to participate!

Rehearsals begin **Sunday, November 9** and run through **Sunday, December 14**, at 11:00.

The children will present the pageant in worship on **Sunday, December 21!**

COMING SOON...

Kids Grades 2-12 are Invited to
Ring in the New Year with your friends at Camp Wyoming!
December 30, 2014 - January 1, 2015



WINTERTAINMENT — *For kids in grades 2-6*

It's Camp Wyoming's annual winter retreat! Compete in the Winter Olympics, sled down the tubing hill, participate in worship and Bible studies, and celebrate New Year's Eve with all your friends here at camp. Stay in heated cabins.

Register by December 1st to receive the Early Bird rate of \$85/person. Regular rate is \$100/person.

NEW YEAR'S BASH — *For kids in grades 7-12*

Specifically for youth, this is a time to kick back with your camp friends while you play broomball, have bonfires, and participate in worship and Bible study. Plus, celebrate the coming new year with a midnight pizza party! Stay in heated cabins

Register by December 1st to receive the early bird rate of \$85/person. Regular rate is \$100/person.



November—Worship Assistants

Sunday, November 2 - 9:30 am – Worship , Communion & All Saints' Day

Liturgist: Larry Petrick
 Greeters: Bob & Jeanette Madson
 Ushers: Doug Hanson & Sue Deibner Bell ringer: Usher Select
 Candle lighter: Emmy Willems
 Communion: Beth Simon, Rozanne Petrick, Al & Becky Ahrens
 Nursery: Hannah Garvey

Sunday, November 9 - 9:30 am – Worship and Birthday Blessing

Liturgist: Ed Bjork
 Greeters: Don Burch & Paul Jerabek
 Ushers: Scott & Amy Weber Bell ringer: Usher Select
 Candle lighter: Ben Recalde
 Nursery: Hannah Garvey

Sunday, November 16 - 9:30 am – Worship

Liturgist: Barb Bjork
 Greeters: Pam Mott & Linda Nost
 Ushers: Ann & James Cannon Bell ringer: Usher Selects
 Candle lighter: Joey Recalde
 Nursery: Hannah Garvey

Sunday, November 23 - 9:30 am – Worship

Liturgist: Nannette Gunn
 Greeters: Larry & Rozanne Petrick
 Ushers: Paul & Nancy Jerabek Bell ringer: Usher Select
 Candle lighter: Trevor Weber
 Nursery: Hannah Garvey

Sunday, November 30 - 9:30 am – Worship

First Sunday in Advent

Liturgist: Gretchen Lindembolt
 Greeters: Al & Becky Ahrens
 Ushers: Bob & Jeanette Madson Bell ringer: Usher Select
 Candle lighter: Chris Cannon
 Nursery: Hannah Garvey

The kingdom of God is not something in the far future that is going suddenly to come down from heaven and settle on you and magically turn everything right. You yourselves are it. It's in you and among you; you have to do it or it will never come.

[Beatrice Bruteau](#)

Source: [The Holy Thursday Revolution](#)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 am Worship Communion & All Saints Day	3 Office Closed	4 7:00-9:00 pm Art Class, Community Room	5	6	7	8
9 9:30 am Worship Birthday Blessing 11:00 am Children Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	10 Office Closed 6:00 Bunko Fellowship Hall	11 6:30 Cancer Support Group Fellowship Hall 7:00-9:00 pm Art Class, Community Room	12	13 6:30 pm TLC, Children's Area	14	15
16 9:30 am Worship CHURCH AUCTION	17 Office Closed 6:30 pm Session, Community Room	18 7:00-9:00 pm Art Class, Community Room	19 10:00-4:00 Quilting Group, Fellowship Hall (Connie Boettcher)	20	21	22
23 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Children Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 30 11:00 am Children Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	24 Office Closed	25 7:00-9:00 pm Art Class, Community Room	26	27 Office Closed happy thanks giving	28 Office Closed	29

Worship in November

Back to the Story: Narrative Lectionary

This year, we are once again using the Narrative Lectionary, a weekly walk through the big stories of the Bible in order. By reading through the whole Bible, we see the trajectory of how God has continually reached out to us and all of creation, seeking partners in making the world as God intended it to be—just, compassionate, merciful, holy.

November 2 – Naaman is Healed

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

All Saints Remembrance

2 Kings 5:1-14

The prophet Elisha heals Naaman, a foreigner suffering from a skin disease

November 9 – The Prophet Micah

November Birthdays Blessing

Micah 5:2-4, 6:6-8

God promises a ruler from Bethlehem; God desires justice, kindness, walking humbly with God

November 16 – Swords Into Plowshares

Annual Fall Auction follows Worship

Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7, 2:1-4

Assyria threatens Jerusalem and King Hezekiah despairs. Isaiah says the city will be saved. Promise that Jerusalem will be a center for teaching and nations will beat swords into plowshares.

November 23 – Jeremiah's Temple Sermon

Jeremiah 1:4-10; 7:1-11

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet; in the Temple, Jeremiah warns the people that they have strayed from God's ways

November 30 – Jeremiah's Temple Sermon

First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 1:4-10; 7:1-11

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet; in the Temple, Jeremiah warns the people that they have strayed from God's ways



Giving Thanks in November: A Stewardship Reflection

Two years ago in August, my husband, Jim Bonewald resigned as pastor of Knox Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids. Our plan: Jim would take a couple of months off, then find a job (pastor or health care administration) by the end of that year, 2012. By our calculations, we could make it to early 2013 on one salary before we started going into the red.

Well. The months ticked by, no job panned out. But neither did the bottom drop out of our finances. We made some adjustments to be sure—much less eating out, fewer impulse purchases—but the anxiety about money and having “enough” eventually subsided.

From the beginning, we entrusted this situation to God. Or to be honest, from the beginning, we *attempted* to entrust this situation to God. It was not easy, and when things initially did not work out as we had planned, it was stressful. **But every step of the way, God has been faithful.** Eventually, we learned to relax into that, to let go of our own time table and trust that God is with us. We have learned anew that God is trustworthy, that God our Shepherd truly does supply our needs.

Also from the beginning, we remained committed to tithing (10% of our income) to the church--\$425 per month or \$5100 annually. Naturally it was tempting at times to cut back on our giving, but we were determined not to. Our tithe was the foundation of entrusting ourselves to God and not letting our fears overwhelm us. *I thank God for the discipline of our tithe, how it helps us to be better stewards of our finances and resources. As we stepped out in faith, we have also grown in faith.*

November is the traditional time to ask you to make a pledge to financially support our congregation in the coming year. We are doing good things in our congregation and community with even more on the horizon—with your continued financial support we will continue making a difference!

But even more than that, I invite you to step out in faith with your giving. Give more than you're comfortable giving. The point is not simply to support what God is doing in our congregation but to see giving and stewardship as an opportunity to grow in your own faith and trust in God.

As you bless others, so you will be blessed! *Pastor Lori*

Stewardship Dedication Sunday is November 16, 2014
Please return your pledge cards on this date if you have not already done so.
Thank you!

