



## ***The Grinnell Presbyterian***

*The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church*

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September 2014

Kirsten Klepfer, Pastor

### **GARDEN OF READIN'...**

The last week of July, Marta Miller, Lydia, and I headed to Buena Vista College in Storm Lake for Synod School. Some of you may not be familiar with Synod School, so let me give you a brief description: It is a week of learning organized by our Synod of Lakes and Prairies. There are hundreds of participants, and a myriad of classes offered.

Each day, book-ended by two worship services, there are classes offered in four blocks. These classes range from basket weaving (really!) to forms of prayer to a Christian approach to contemporary issues in bioethics. In case it's not clear, that's a pretty big range. Participants sign up for the four classes they want to take and attend them all week. The leadership and teaching of these classes is almost uniformly outstanding – at least in my experiences. This was certainly the case for me this year. I took three classes (one class spanned two blocks of time).

The first was on the book *My Bright Abyss*, which we all read in advance of our week together. This book, by Christian Wiman, was a beautiful description of his own journey to God. He is a poet by profession, so the quality of the writing alone is worth a read. He is also searingly honest, and deals incredibly well with the paradoxes inherent in our faith tradition (e.g. "Before God and with God we live without God"). He challenges traditional and orthodox notions of the divine and Christ, yet stands squarely within the Christian story and finds himself in good company with people like Marilyn Robinson (author of *Gilead*) and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Speaking of Bonhoeffer, my afternoon class was a flurry of information about his life, his teachings, his letters, and his martyrdom. The professor who taught the class has dedicated a huge portion of his career to studying Bonhoeffer, and I was rapt, moved by his story, and curious to know more. I was compelled to read more about his life when I returned, and I got his book *Life Together*, which is his treatise on how to be church in this world. I have a suspicion you will be hearing more about this later.

My final class was taught by a Presbyterian elder who served in the foreign service for a number of years. Each day he took a different part of the world and shared what he knew of the history, the current scene, and the politics involved. We heard about the Arab Spring, China, Russia and Ukraine, and the economics of trade policy. He was almost freakish in how much he knew about each subject and his ability to answer any question we had. I learned a great deal; most of it was fairly discouraging, but he definitely held out hope for our world, which was nice to hear.

I would be a bit remiss if I didn't mention the worship services, though I'm not entirely sure what to say. At times they were beautiful and inspiring, at times frustrating and trivializing, and at times downright offensive. I guess I did know what to say.

I share all of this with you for a couple of reasons. First, you are the ones who grant me the opportunity for continuing education, and the least I owe you is a report on what I did and how it shaped me. I also would genuinely love to talk to any of you on any of the subjects I studied that week (or the worship services, for that matter). I am passionate about all of it, and suspect some of you would be as well. Finally, it's a shameless plug for next year's Synod School – you know you want to go!

Peace, Pastor Kirsten



**Rabbi Rob Cabelli** for joining us in worship for two weeks to share his insight and perspective with us.

**Donna Ricks, Marta Miller** for organizing the breakfast for the Great March for Climate Action walkers. Thanks also to **Donna Winburn and Al Ricks** for helping at the breakfast (SO early in the morning!). And thanks to all who cooked and baked for the group.

**First Pres** for giving Pastor Kirsten time for continuing education ó always a gift I cherish.

**Gail Greenwald** for putting together the display of the history of our church. What a wonderful opportunity for all of us to learn more about who we are.



**IT'S TIME TO PRAY:**  
**TUESDAYS AT 4:30**  
(note the change in time!)

Every Tuesday a small group of people gather in the church library for a time of silent prayer. The prayer lasts about 15 minutes and there is a suggested structure for those who would like. New people are always welcome; it is a drop-in group.

Prayer is a discipline as old as humankind. Prayer orients us to God and to what is important in our lives and the world. Silence is so rare in our society, yet silence seems so crucial if we are going to listen for and connect to something larger than ourselves. Carve out 15 minutes once a week to take a breath, connect with God, and pray for a hurting world.

**COLLEGE LUNCH: SEPTEMBER 14**

Our first college lunch, hosted by Emily and Tom Moore, will be September 14<sup>th</sup> following worship. This lunch is open to all people involved in college life ó any college, any involvement. There will be a home-cooked meal and fellowship every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.

If you are interested, meet in fellowship hall immediately following worship. If you have questions, email [kirsten@klepfer.net](mailto:kirsten@klepfer.net).

**A LETTER FROM NIAH HOWARD, CO-DIRECTOR OF**  
**ART FOR EL SALVADOR**

Pastor Kirsten,

I spoke with Betty Dyer from the Des Moines Presbytery and she told me Grinnell Presbyterian made another very generous donation to Art for El Salvador! We cannot thank you all enough for your continued support of our project. It was such a pleasure to speak with your church and spend time in the Grinnell community.

Since we spoke with your congregation, we've had some exciting updates. We are now an official non-profit and were granted our tax-exempt status. We are working on organizing a benefit concert in Des Moines and we are getting closer and closer to reaching our fundraising goal. Your most recent donation means we are only \$4,000 from fully funding the construction of the new school! We have no doubt that we will reach or exceed our goal by the September 15 deadline.

Thank you again so much for your support. Once the project gets underway, we'd love to come back and give you all an update if you'd like!

Best,  
Niah Howard  
Art for El Salvador

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

	<u>July</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 8,659	\$75,481
Budgeted	\$10,000	\$70,000
Total Income	\$ 9,252	\$83,086
Budgeted	\$11,048	\$77,335
Expenses	\$10,700	\$82,535
Budgeted	\$11,330	\$79,313

## THANK YOU TO OUR AUGUST COFFEE MAKERS/CLEANUP AND CAKE BAKERS:

Marie Eisenman, Mary Lou Doty, Marta Miller, John and Susan McIntyre, Donna Winburn, and cake bakers Chrissy Hazlette and Donna Ricks.

## WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

**September 7**—Holy Communion. Lectionary readings: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20.

**September 14**—Heifer Sunday. Lectionary readings: Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35.

**September 21**—Third Sunday Potluck, Food Pantry Sunday. Lectionary readings: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16.

**September 28**—Lectionary readings: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32.

## GETTING TO KNOW US: MARY LOU MARTINDALE DOTY

If there is food served at the church, for events, for funerals or potlucks, you are sure to find Mary Lou bringing food, working in the kitchen or cleaning up. This always includes delivering Meals on Wheels when it is our turn. She has been a deacon more times than she can remember and currently leads one of the four hospitality groups. She also has taught Sunday school.

Mary Lou was born in Burlington, IA, and her family moved to Grinnell in 1954. She has attended First Presbyterian ever since. She attended Sunday school with young Peaks, Hoisingtons, Logans, and Baumanns, along with Mary's brothers Ed and Harvey. Mary Lou and her best friend forever, the late Mary Jo Adams, were always together. The Youth Group was very important for both Marys. Mary Lou remembers Rev. Landis and Rev. Bird as well as Rev. Ron Rain. Mary Lou did baby sitting for Rev. Bird. In high school, Mary Lou and Mary Jo had fun working at the A and W Root Beer stand, which was out on highway 6 where West Side is now.

After graduating from Grinnell High, Mary Lou and Marvin were married by the pastor Rev. Ron Rain in the old church building. She worked at Grinnell Reinsurance until her children were born. After being a stay at home Mom for several years, she started working at the Vogue Salon as receptionist and book-keeper. She worked there 32 years before retiring.

Her children are Scott, who is unmarried and lives in Grinnell, and Jennifer, who is married to Frank and lives in Chicago. Jennifer and Frank have two kids, Jacob who is 18 and a senior in high school, and Jessica who is 12 and entering 7th grade.

Mary Lou says she is retired and "tired"; nevertheless she works at Michelle's Dance Academy a couple of days a week. She loves to go out for coffee with her friends, and enjoys cooking. She and Marvin like traveling and antiquing. And of course spending time with those grandchildren.

The late Velma Martindale, who was Mary Lou's mother, was also very active in this church. She lived in Windsor Manor toward the end of her life. She was Superintendent of the Sunday School. She always made knitted dish cloths for bazaars; she taught Katie Hoisington, who is still making the same pattern.

# September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer Time	3 12:00 Food Recovery Network	4 12:00 Food Recovery Network	5 12:00 Lectionary Bible	6
7 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship Holy Communion 2:00 Turlach Ur 2:30 Rick's Anniversary Party 7:00 Book Discussion	8	9 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer Time	10 12:00 Ministerial Association 12:00 Food Recovery Network 6:30 Session	11 12:00 Food Recovery Network	12 12:00 Lectionary Bible	13
14 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship Heifer Sunday 12:00 College Student Lunch 2:00 Turlach Ur	15	16 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer Time	17 12:00 Food Recovery Network 6:30 Deacons	18 12:00 Food Recovery Network	19 12:00 Lectionary Bible	20
21 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship Third Sunday Potluck, Food Pantry Sunday 2:00 Turlach Ur 7:00 Book Discussion	22 Newsletter Deadline	23 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer Time	24 12:00 Food Recovery Network	25 10:30 Newsletter Mailing 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Christian Ed Meeting	26 12:00 Lectionary Bible	27 7:00-10:00 Food Share 10:00-12:00 League of Women Voters' Fall Brunch
28 9:15 Choir, Sunday School 10:30 Worship Birthday Sunday 2:00 Turlach Ur  Presbyterfest!!	29	30 12:00 Food Recovery Network 4:30 Prayer Time				

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

### SEPTEMBER

7<sup>o</sup> Liturgist: Erik Simpson  
Greeter: Mary and Marv Doty  
Deacon: Jim Ahrens  
Ushers: Sue Ahrens and Char Ewan  
Coffee: Jill Kaiser  
Acolyte: Pete Simpson  
Van Driver: Norm Schroeder  
Nursery Volunteer: Marta Miller  
Communion Servers: Erik Simpson,  
Susan McIntyre, Tom Moore  
Offering counter: John Martenson

14- Liturgist: Tom Moore  
Greeter: Donna Winburn  
Deacon: Doty Stoker  
Ushers: Russ Stoker, Art Heimann  
Coffee: Mary Anne Nickle  
Acolyte: Amber Martenson  
Van Driver: Montie Redenius  
Nursery Volunteer: Emily Moore

21<sup>o</sup> Liturgist: Ray Peak  
Greeter: Marie Eisenman  
Deacon: Suzanne Redenius  
Ushers: Montie Redenius, Irma Arnaman  
Coffee: Paul, Sheryl, Stiven, Julio Parmley  
Acolyte: Julio Parmley  
Van Driver: Norm Schroeder  
Nursery Volunteer: Sue Ahrens

28<sup>o</sup> Liturgist: Carolyn Jacobson  
Greeter: Bob and Carol Weisskopf  
Deacon: Sara McCue  
Ushers: Janet and Jim Ferguson  
Coffee: Janet Carl  
Acolyte: Alana Ferguson  
Van Driver: Montie Redenius  
Nursery Volunteer: Jill Kaiser  
Cake baker: Janice Logan

### OCTOBER

5<sup>o</sup> Liturgist: Donna Ricks  
Greeter: Chrissy Hazlett  
Deacon: Linda Stoll  
Ushers: Phil McCune, Tom Moore  
Coffee: Karla Kriegel  
Acolyte: Damien Nickle  
Van Driver: Carey Krull  
Nursery Volunteer: Deb Martenson  
Communion Servers: Donna Ricks,  
Karen Phillips, Marta Miller  
Offering Counter: Karen Phillips



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>o</sup> Candace Hoffmann  
4<sup>o</sup> Clara McMeekin  
6<sup>o</sup> Doty Stoker  
8<sup>o</sup> Carolyn Jacobson  
10- Marlene Peak  
13- Dan McCue  
15- Peggy German  
Dorothy Inouye

17- Ralph Lemke  
18- Evelyn Freeman  
Karla Kriegel  
21- Jerry Doonan  
28- Hanna McCue  
29- Chrissy Hazlett  
Rylie Imhoff  
30- Darwin Kinne

### 100TH BIRTHDAY!!

Clara McMeekin will celebrate her 100th birthday on September 4. Cards can be sent to her at

Homestead Nursing Home  
Room 106  
1002 Comstoca Drive  
Deer River MN 56636

### NEW ADDRESSES

Gail and Stan Greenwald: 619 Park St., Apt. B316  
Saunia Powell: 1317 Fifth Avenue



## Plan to attend

September 7<sup>th</sup> 9:15 AM  
PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade

**GRINNELL CROP HUNGERWALK**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 (rain or shine!)**  
**Ahrens Park (GARC if it rains) 1 p.m.**

The annual CROP walk will be on Sunday, October 6. We need volunteers to walk. We will have envelopes available for walkers. More details later, but please keep it in mind.

**FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS**  
**COMMITTEE**

Pictures are almost completed for our picture directory. We are planning on distributing our directories the first part of October. As you recall this directory is "First Presbyterian of Grinnell produced". We will ask for free will donations to help cover the cost when distributed. Many thanks to Saunia Powell, Susan McIntyre, Donna Ricks, Barb Erquist, Karen Phillips and Chris Day for helping with this project.

Chris Day

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN-NEWS**

Since the Correctional Institute for Women at Mitchellville is doing some new construction and remodeling - they cannot take clothing this Fall.

The Heart and Hands Health Center of Des Moines has been contacted. They are a Health Care Center located at Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Des Moines. The health center provides access to health care services ó particularly for pregnant women and small children.

They are in need of baby items such as: diapers, small baby sleepers, undershirts and socks, and health items such as lotions, diaper rash ointment and baby and childrens Tylenol.

The items will be collected in September and October and taken to Des Moines at the end of October.

Let us make this a whole church project and help the Heart and Hands Health Center.

**UPDATES FROM THE FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

Janet Ferguson has given many years as a co-chair with Mary Lou Doty for one of our hospitality committees. When it is their committee's turn to provide food for a funeral or other special event, Janet has made numerous phone calls, decorated tables, and worked in the kitchen. Janet has decided to step down from this responsibility. THANK YOU, Janet, for all your energy, time, dedication, and kindness you have given to so many.

Welcome to Irma Arnaman who has agreed to step in as co-chair with Mary Lou. Thank you, Irma! You know the job well having been the Session member to co-chair the Facilities Committee.

Within the next few weeks there will be updated Hospitality lists for church members and friends to obtain in Fellowship Hall. New people have been added while other names have been removed. We thank all of you who have donated food items, money, or time for funerals or other occasions.

Please be watching for something new and different at the church. Intrigued? More information to come!

**SAVE THE DATE FOR**  
**PRESBYTEMFERFEST 2014!**

Mark your calendars now for Sunday, September 28, as we look forward to the 2nd annual Presbyterfest! The Christian Education Committee is planning an inspirational and fun-filled all-church picnic to mark the end of summer. Details will be announced in the Sunday bulletins and in the next newsletter, but anticipate a late afternoon/early evening cookout picnic, similar to last year's event. We'll look forward to seeing you at Presbyterfest 2014!

**FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK**

Thank you to all who have diligently kept the Food Recovery Program going through the summer. The college students will be back September 2 enabling the program to return to three days a week. We still could use a few more volunteers to help. If you could spare a couple hours once a month or every few weeks, we would appreciate it. We have orientation information, and Carey Krull can help orient you if you are interested. You can also contact Dave Cranston at 641-990-1610.

## **KIDS AGAINST HUNGER.**

The next KAH packaging event will be Sunday, September 21 at 1:00 P.M. at St. Mary's Educational Center. We hope to have an adult team and a kid's team. Even if you have never packaged before, please consider it. It's about an hour of fun that serves a great cause. If you can make a financial contribution toward the cost of the supplies and shipping, please do so by writing a check to First Presbyterian Church and put KAH in the memo line. We need \$360 per team. Please join us. Sign up sheets are in the fellowship hall. Please contact Tom Moore or Karla Kriegel if you have questions.



## **MEALS ON WHEELS: SEPTEMBER 15-26**

We would love volunteers to participate in this great community program. Volunteers deliver lunch to people in need in Grinnell. Sign up for a route on the sheet in fellowship hall.

If you haven't done Meals on Wheels before and would like to, someone will accompany you on the first day.

## **THE GREAT MARCH FOR CLIMATE ACTION**

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!!**

Saying *thank you* is hardly enough to so many of you who donated delicious muffins and cinnamon rolls, glistening fresh fruit, or money for ingredients for other menu items. Once again, our church friends show support for mission outreach. **THANK YOU!**

Let us tell you about the event. On Friday, Marta and Donna prepared casseroles, sausage, vegan strawberry syrup, and set tables. Then, on Saturday morning Marta was at the church bright and early (3:30 a.m.!!) to start the ovens and put the casseroles in. Donna Winburn greeted our walkers and then pitched in to help cleanup; Al Ricks flipped vegan pancakes (for all) and helped cleanup; three League of Women Voters, Terese Grant, Jean Libbey, and Effie Hall, also helped by providing fruit or Saturday morning assistance. We all enjoyed our visits with the walkers and hearing their stories. Rev. Bob Cook was one who made the trip, and he was jovial and inspiring, as usual. *Trivia:* The youngest walker was three and the oldest was 83. We also welcomed a well-behaved Border Collie who was one of the marchers; she had her own food, however.

Thirty-five walkers were served, plus kitchen helpers. All were exceptionally appreciative of the meal and thanked us numerous times. These hikers had excellent appetites and ate and ate and ate!! Knowing they had a cooler, we offered any surplus food for them to use for other meals and snacks, and they were thrilled! Not a morsel was left!

By the time this newsletter goes to press, the marchers who strode through Grinnell on August 15-16 will have crossed from Davenport into Port Byron, Illinois. August 26 is the actual date having entered the state on July 30. Their march ends November 1 in Washington, D.C.

## **YOU ARE INVITED**

Al and Donna Ricks are celebrating their fortieth wedding anniversary on September 7. Their daughter Sarah and her family, Shane, Ella and Tyce, are hosting a celebration at John Ernest Winery and Vineyard, 3291 N Avenue, Tama, which is two miles east of Tama on Highway 30 after it becomes a two-lane road. Watch for a big sign on the left ó you can't miss it!

The revelry runs from 2:30 ó 5:30 on Sunday, September 7 -- come any time. No gifts, please; just come and have fun.

On Sunday afternoon at the Winery there is musical entertainment. *Route 66* (a 50's and 60's group) will be performing outside from 3:00 ó 6:00. If you wish to listen to their music, bring your lawn chair.

First Presbyterian Church  
1025 Fifth Avenue  
Grinnell IA 50112

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Return Service Requested



### GOT HISTORY?

You may recall that there is a small group of interested "historians" working on First Presbyterian's collection of memorabilia. Some of these items date back to the early twentieth century. The historical items that have been in Fellowship Hall for the month of August will be in place until Sunday School begins on September 7. An addition has been made to the original display: photographs from a collection that Marta Miller has been in the process of organizing over the past several years. She feels that there are missing photographs (some in albums) of important FPC events. Do you have any or know where they might be? Would you be willing to donate them to the church or let us scan them? Soon our small group will divide up the collection for more permanent and safe storage at Drake Community Library, the Presbytery office and here at FPC.

Phone or e-mail Gail Greenwald with questions or comments or photos. 236-1542 or [<sgree@mac.com>](mailto:sgree@mac.com)