

First Presbyterian Church  
1025 Fifth Avenue  
Grinnell IA 50112

Return Requested



## **The Grinnell Presbyterian**

*The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church*

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July 2014

Kirsten Klepfer, Pastor

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

It is an interesting time to be a Presbyterian! On the national front, our General Assembly just concluded last week after tackling a number of significant issues. From approving gay marriage to divestment from companies that support the Israeli occupation of Palestine, conversations were intense, votes were close, and the impact of the decisions could be pretty big. I encourage you to take some time and look at <http://pres-outlook.org> to learn about the decisions and their potential impact for us, and those around the world.

But closer to home some pretty interesting and amazing things are happening as well. Our presbytery is going through some major changes. A few things conspired to force our presbytery to look at the big picture and decide who we want to be and what we want to be about.

The presbytery is facing some pretty severe financial issues. There's been a trend recently toward less revenue and increasing expenses. Some church closures, and one church leaving the denomination, have provided us with funds that have sustained us for the past few years. But those funds are dwindling quickly. Big and difficult decisions will have to be made soon.

At the same time, a couple of our presbytery's most vibrant and important ministries are in jeopardy due to lack of resources. The Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church in Des Moines started, and has continued, some incredible ministries over the years, including: Cross Ministries, a ministry that serves the under-resourced of Des Moines in a myriad of ways; the El Salvador ministry, a partnership between our presbytery and a city in El Salvador that brings much needed resources to areas devastated by years of war and corruption; and a Sudanese ministry, which has served a refugee population in essential ways.

Cottage Grove is a very small congregation and they can no longer support these ministries on their own. They cannot maintain the building in which these ministries operate, and they cannot pay a pastor to lead the community.

When the presbytery became aware of this situation we affirmed right away that these are exactly the kind of things the larger church should be doing - fulfilling the command to serve the least among us. So, a commission was formed to see what possibilities there were for the Cottage Grove congregation, Cross, and the Sudanese folks. This commission spent a year carefully studying and considering all of this and came to presbytery in May with a proposal.

There are a lot of details to the proposal, and I would love to talk more about them with anyone who is interested, but the basic idea is for the presbytery to reorganize Cottage Grove church into a mission center. The presbytery will move their offices there and take over care of the building, as well as running the mission center. We will then invite community agencies with similar goals to take up residence in the building.

While this plan is incredibly ambitious, it is also a way to live out our commitment to mission work above everything else. It is an attempt to say it's worth risking the institution in order to be true to ourselves.

After respectful, substantive, and informative conversation, this proposal passed overwhelmingly at a special presbytery meeting early this month (a very well attended meeting, including Marta Miller and Karen Phillips from our congregation). Moving forward will be hard, fraught with all sorts of challenges, and it all may fail. But people seem energized and ready to try something new for the sake of the gospel. Failure or not, I don't think that can be a bad thing.

Again, I invite you to ask me more about this if you are interested.

Peace,  
Pastor Kirsten

**CHURCH  
RUMMAGE  
SALE  
JULY 19**

### PW NEWS

We thank everyone who baked and donated muffins for our successful M&Mö Sunday. The donations totaled \$470, so a big Thank You to all who helped us with medical kits.



**THANK YOU** Many, many folks who helped with Bob Baumann's funeral. **The deacons** put the pews in place and the choir put them back. **Lyn, Al Ricks, Lily Hamilton, and the choir** offered wonderful music.

**Donna Ricks** both helped with everything and was on top of what needed to get done. **Montie Redenius** for doing the bulletin inserts. And those who I am surely forgetting or don't even know about!

**Chris Day, Donna Ricks, Karen Phillips, Susan McIntyre and Barb Erquist** for their work on the photo church directory.

**Marta Miller and Karen Phillips** who attended the Des Moines Presbytery meeting at the beginning of June on behalf of all of us.

**Sara, Dan, Slane, Hanna, and Graeme McCue** for their graciousness when we didn't have someone covering the nursery one Sunday.

### THANK YOU TO OUR JUNE COFFEE MAKERS /CLEANUP, CAKE BAKERS

Janice Logan, Gail and Stan Greenwald, Karen and Ed Phillips, Doty and Russ Stoker, Suzanne Nekola and cake bakers Suzanne Nekola and Al and Donna Ricks.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Alana K. Sellner of Marion, Iowa for receiving her Master's Degree in Education from Mt. Mercy University. She is now teaching Special Education in the Marion School District.

Alana is a former member of this congregation and is the daughter of Denise Bennett and the granddaughter of Bill and Arlene Bennett.

### SUNDAY SERVANTS

#### **JULY**

6<sup>th</sup> Liturgist: Susan McIntyre  
Greeter: Denise and Rich Creps  
Deacon: Linda Stoll  
Ushers: Mary and Marv Doty  
Coffee: Mary and Marv Doty  
Acolyte: Lydia Klepfer  
Van Driver: Carey Krull  
Nursery Volunteer: Sue Ahrens  
Communion servers: Susan McIntyre, Tom Moore, Erik Simpson  
Offering counter: Susan McIntyre

13<sup>th</sup> Liturgist: Char Ewan  
Greeter: Bob and Carol Weisskopf  
Deacon: Doty Stoker  
Ushers: Russ Stoker, Jim Ferguson  
Coffee: Carolyn Jacobson  
Acolyte: Alana Ferguson  
Van Driver: Norm Schroeder  
Nursery Volunteer: Deb Martenson

20<sup>th</sup> Liturgist: Al Ricks  
Greeter: Shelley Cranston  
Deacon: Kendall Nickle  
Ushers: Gail and Stan Greenwald  
Coffee: Dave and Linda Cranston  
Acolyte: Damien Nickle  
Van Driver: Montie Redenius  
Nursery Volunteer: Emily Moore

27<sup>th</sup> Liturgist: Marie Eisenman  
Greeter: Art Heimann  
Deacon: Janice Logan  
Ushers: Emily and Tom Moore  
Coffee: Janet Carl  
Acolyte: Gillian Ferguson  
Van Driver: John Martenson  
Nursery Volunteer: Jill Kaiser  
Cake Baker: Cranstons (Moved to 20th)

#### **AUGUST**

3<sup>rd</sup> Liturgist: Rich Thorson  
Greeter: Irma Arnaman  
Deacon: Jim Ahrens  
Ushers: Sue Ahrens, Char Ewan  
Coffee:  
Acolyte: Amber Martenson  
Van Driver: Carey Krull  
Nursery Volunteer: Marta Miller  
Communion servers: Rich Thorson, Donna Ricks, John Martenson  
Offering counter: Rich Thorson

### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

	May	Year-to-Date
Pledge Income	\$11,280	\$54,591
Budgeted	\$10,000	\$50,000
Total Income	\$11,973	\$59,151
Budgeted	\$11,048	\$55,240
Expenses	\$11,305	\$61,073
Budgeted	\$11,330	\$56,652

### WORSHIP IN JULY

**July 6**—Holy Communion. Lectionary readings: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

**July 13**—Lectionary readings: Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

**July 20**—Lectionary readings: Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

**July 27**—Lectionary readings: Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION DATES

Pastor Kirsten will be on continuing education leave from July 28 to August 1. She will not miss a Sunday, but Sara McCue will be preaching on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pastor Kirsten, Lydia, and Marta are going to Synod School at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake.

### ANNIVERSARY INVITATION



We invite everyone to join us immediately after church on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup> for an informal celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We will serve cake and ice cream. Thank you.

David and Linda Cranston

### SUMMER (FORMERLY CHRISTMAS) JOY OFFERING!

During the months of June and July, we will receive our Joy Offering. This is an important special offering of the PCUSA that goes to support a number of ministries in our denomination.

*The Board of Pensions Receives 50 percent of the Offering*

Through the Board of Pensions' Financial Assistance Programs, the Joy Offering recognizes the faithfulness of and retired church workers by providing funds to help them through difficult times.

To help retired church workers and their surviving spouses, the board offers *Income Supplements* to raise incomes to a level where retirees can live modestly and continue to maintain their independence. If these individuals' income does not support their housing needs, the board provides them *Housing Supplements*.

*Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges Receive 50 Percent of the Offering*

The Presbyterian Church has long promoted education through establishing and supporting racial ethnic schools. Joy Offering funds help with basic operating costs in addition to providing scholarships to deserving students. These institutions develop leaders in the church and in society, and they enable students to pursue their professional goals. All Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)-related schools and colleges are open to any qualified student regardless of race. For a list of schools supported by the Joy Offering, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/cjoffering/about.htm>.

# July 2014

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

		1	2	3 10:00-10:30 Sara McCue	4	5
6 10:30 Worship Holy Communion  2:00 Turlach Ur	7	8 12:00 Food Recovery Network  1:45 Prayer Time  5:30 Second Mile	9   6:30 Session	10 10:00-10:30 Sara McCue	11 Lectionary Bible Study	12
13 10:30 Worship Heifer Sunday  2:00 Turlach Ur	14	15 12:00 Food Recovery Network  1:45 Prayer Time	16	17 10:00-10:30 Sara McCue	18 Lectionary Bible Study	19 7:30 to 12:30 Rummage Sale
20 10:30 Worship Food Pantry Sunday Cranston Anniversary Cake  2:00 Turlach Ur	21 Newsletter Deadline	22 12:00 Food Recovery Network  1:45 Prayer Time	23	24 10:00-10:30 Sara McCue  10:30 Newsletter Mailing  5:30 All Church Event (See Article for details)	25 Lectionary Bible Study	26
27 10:30 Worship  2:00 Turlach Ur	28	29 12:00 Food Recovery Network  1:45 Prayer Time	30	31 10:00-10:30 Sara McCue		

## ALL-CHURCH EVENT PLANNED FOR THURSDAY, JULY 24



What could be better than a nice evening of music in the park, good food, conversation with friends, and ice cream? The All-Church Event planning team believes those superlatives will fill the bill for our summer event and so they are scheduled for Thursday, July 24! All that's needed is for you to plan to participate!

The fun will get underway at 5:30 p.m. at the south-east shelter in Central Park (watch for the signage). A light supper of sub sandwiches, chips, fresh fruit and beverage will be served there, as music by the Prairie Jewel Dixieland Band begins in the band stand. You'll want to bring your lawn chair and, perhaps, some insect repellent, for the rest of the Music in the Park program.

Then the most amazing interlude as the concert continues, ice cream and toppings will magically appear at the shelter for dessert! It will be a perfect way to put a topping on the evening!

To assist with food preparation, all we ask is that you sign up at church or call the church office to indicate your plan to attend. With the evening being sponsored by the Christian Education Committee, there is no cost to attend. Your Sunday morning offerings, through the church budget and the Christian Education Committee, help meet the financial need.

We'll be looking forward to seeing YOU at Central Park on July 24!

## RUMMAGE SALE SATURDAY JULY 19! 7:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.



Our First Presbyterian Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, July 19, 2014 from 7:30 to 12:30. Donations can be brought to the church and put in the large Sunday School room. Please bring your items no later than 4:00 pm Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be sign-up sheets in the fellowship hall for volunteers to help with the set up and the sale. Please do not bring TVs or microwaves as they usually do not sell and cost us to dispose of them. Gently used clothing will be accepted this year, as a trial. Proceeds will go to Kids Against Hunger and Heifer International. If you have questions, please contact Linda Cranston, 236-1105. Thank you.

## KIDS AGAINST HUNGER



Kids Against Hunger is an organization that gives healthy food to families in need, both in the United States and around the world. Many organizations around the Grinnell community support this ministry by coming together four times a year to package the food that is sent out. First Pres has been actively involved in Kids Against Hunger since its inception in here in Grinnell in 2006. This includes supporting our packaging teams with financial resources that cover the cost of the food. Each time our church teams participate we have to donate \$540.

For years we have had enough donations by people in our congregation to cover that. Right now we are running behind. All of that is a friendly reminder that if you want to participate in this ministry, we need both packagers and money.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MAY AND JUNE SESSION MEETINGS

*Thank you to Session Clerk, Char Ewan, for the original minutes and to Donna Ricks for this summary.*

**Facilities** ó A very successful cleanup day on April 27 was held. Various repairs came to the attention of the Facilities Committee: insulation needs to be replaced on the air conditioning condenser hoses; posts supporting the fence around the air conditioning compressor are rotting and need replacement in the near future. New fire extinguishers, carbon monoxide detector, bulbs in the sanctuary and Knox Box will be purchased. Bill Vosburg was contacted to fix (again) the closer on the interior door, and a new vacuum cleaner hose was purchased.

**Worship** ó Comments were shared on the growing relationship with St. Paul's church and that we welcome that connection. There were positive responses for all the Lent/Easter experiences. Char Ewan volunteered to take the role of detail person for special services in the future. New music is needed for the bell choir. At the June meeting, Char Ewan offered \$470 of Bette Kersey's memorial funds to be used for this purpose.

**Education** ó Pete Simpson and Miles McIntyre received their bibles and the Sunday School took charge of the worship service on May 18. Vacation Bible School will be held July 13-17<sup>th</sup>. The VBS mission is to get books into the hands of every child, so donations are being accepted for new and lightly-used books. The all-church read, *Spiritual Ecology Essays*, is still in the planning stage. Plans are being made for the fall Sunday School and Confirmation class. The next all-church event will be held on July 24, 5:30 p.m., in Central Park. Rain date is August 7, 2014. See article elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Mission** ó Food Recovery Network is functioning on Tuesdays during the summer. More volunteers are still needed. Rummage Sale will be held on July 19, 2014. After discussion the proceeds will go to offset the Kids against Hunger deficit with the remainder to Heifer Project.

**Communication** ó The picture directory is doing well with the goal of finishing pictures by the end of the summer. Please contact Chris Day to schedule a picture.

**Summer potlucks** ó There will be no potlucks during the months of June, July, and August.

**Church archives** ó The subcommittee of the Facilities Committee has submitted a written proposal to the session recommending for safety reasons the church's historical records be retained by the Drake Community Library. After a discussion of the proposal, an affirmative vote was taken to give by deed to Drake Community Library Archives appropriate historical records of First Presbyterian Church. The subcommittee, composed of Gail Greenwald, Cheryl Neubert, Char Ewan and Joy Krull, will work with the Drake Library staff to determine the appropriate materials and preparation needed to archive the material. Gail Greenwald will contact the Presbytery to verify what documents the church needs to keep.

**Report on Membership Rolls** ó Donna Ricks reported that currently, we have 131 members. At this time we have had four (now five) deaths in 2014 and none in 2013. Per capita letters have been sent out. If we don't hear from some people whose participation is marginal, they will be contacted to see if they want to continue their membership.

**Cottage Grove Administrative Commission Report.** Karen Phillips reported on the special Presbytery meeting held June 7. Please see Pastor's article in this newsletter.

**The Great March for Climate Action** will be coming through Grinnell on August 15, 2014 through August 16, 2014. We have been asked to provide dinner, breakfast or lunch during this period for approximately 40-50 people. More information is forthcoming from Lorna Caulkins.

## WOULD YOU HELP?

Greeters, ushers, nursery volunteers, acolytes, van drivers, and liturgists are needed as *Sunday Servants*. If there is a volunteer position you wish to fill, please contact one of the Worship Co-Chairs, Rich Thorson or Karen Phillips, or the church office (236-6059). Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

*"From Christ the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Ephesians 4:16 (NIV)*



## JULY BIRTHDAYS

1-Ryan Peak  
5-Dallas Sterk, Connie Gause  
8-Madeline Shell  
9-Sara McCue, Lydia Klepger  
10-Cristy Peak  
14-Marv Doty  
15-Montie Redenius  
16-Rich Thorson  
22-Adalyn Scheffert  
25-Miriam Baumann, Jonna German  
29-Joyce Doonan  
31-Saunia Powell

## CARD OF THANKS

Thanks to all of our friends at First Presbyterian Church who have said many prayers for us, and especially prayers for Jerry as he has battled yet another round with cancer. The power of prayer has certainly helped him be a winner over the last ten years as he just completed his 7th bout with this horrible disease. He gets a little stronger with each passing day but it is a Stage 4 Cancer and the doctors will continue monitoring it every 3 months and it will show up again sometime, somewhere. Thank you so much!

Jerry and Joyce Doonan