

THE BURNING BUSH

From the Pastor's desk...

"Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart."

The lyrics of the hymn, "Here I am, Lord," reminds me of many things. We have sung it in worship services, at Presbytery meetings, at ordinations and installations. But the words echo responses down through the ages. Abraham, Moses, the prophets, David, Solomon, Christ's own disciples and followers, Paul, Stephen, Philip, and countless others throughout the Bible and into our own time. Christ still calls today. From the recesses of the world, to places you and I have never heard of. He calls to us in the pews, in our homes, and in every walk of life.

I think of a man named Anthony who heard God call him to give up a future of wealth and power to become His servant. Over and over God would call Anthony to assist Him in making miracles happen. And every time God called, Anthony would respond without hesitation.

Anthony became known for his extraordinary love for the poor expressed most often by his feeding the hungry. He truly held God's people in his heart. For centuries, St. Anthony's bread is the term used for offerings made in response to God's call to minister to the poor and disadvantaged.

Similar stories are known of St. Francis, Mother Theresa, and great missionaries like Hudson Taylor and Elizabeth Elliot. I'll bet you can name a few as well. I think of people who are dear to me that I have been blessed to know—their generosity, kindness, and self-giving. Those who believe no person should ever go hungry, no child without love, no man or woman without a home. What a wonderful world it would be. But the world is still desperate for "bread" and hungry for God's word just as it was ages ago. Now the call rings out to us. Will you remember someone? Will you offer a piece of bread, a gesture of love, an open door to your heart and home?

Every day we have an opportunity to serve others—some as near as your neighbor. There but by the grace of God go we. We may never reach the elevation of sainthood, nor be renowned, but we will have given our best when God calls.

Gracious God, source of all healing, in Jesus Christ you heal the sick, mend the broken, and feed the hungry. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells. Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Guiding his children, he leads us. Visiting the sick, he heals us. Dying on the cross, he saves us. Risen, he gives new life. Living with you, he prays for us. Lead us to answer your call and be examples of your Son on earth as we live out your kingdom work. Amen.

Pastor Linda

Timeline to Find Minister

June	15	Missions Statement to Marty Tartar to debug
June	23	Mission & Financial Statements to COM for approval
July	1	Call Congregational Mtg to elect PNC – must announce mtg for 2 Sundays
August	1	Have PNC elected; PNC & Session complete MIF, MIF approved by COM (meet 4th Tues of month), Presbytery stated Clerk works with MIF & Financials (Meet Felipe Martinez)
September	1	PNC starts receiving PIFs to review. Also any self-referrals (5-10 qty) Will select PIFs for further review
October	1	Should be ready to interview/meet candidates. Narrow down candidates to final choices.
November	1	Fill position.

Confirmation Classes will not be held this year. It was my decision, after much prayer, that these classes should be taught by your permanent pastor. Since the ages of the future confirmands are young enough, there will still be time to enroll next year. This decision came on the heels of the hours I am expected to work and the primary task I am here to do, which is helping you through the process of calling your new pastor.

It's Vacation Bible School registration time!



Join us for Everest!

You won't want to miss this!



Click [Here](#) for an online registration form.

If you prefer to submit registrations directly to the church office, please call 245-2914 or email us at firstpresfarmington@gmail.com. We will need each child's full name, parent's full name and a phone number.

Please join us for Vacation Bible School beginning Sunday, July 26th through July 30th. We will start at 6:30PM ending at 8:30PM each evening.

JULY 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4  Celebration at Reed Park
5 Food Pantry Communion Sunday Council of Churches meeting 12:15PM	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Session meeting 7:00PM	15 Burning Bush deadline NOON	16	17	18
19 Birthday Celebration at Fellowship time	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 VBS 6-8:30PM	27 VBS 6-8:30PM	28 VBS 6-8:30PM	29 VBS 6-8:30PM	30 VBS 6-8:30PM	31	

One of the goals of our newly formed Tech Team is to use the website more effectively for events. Have you visited the calendar page yet? Stay in touch with this page to find out what's happening! Church calendar can be found at

<http://www.firstpresfarmington.com/calendar.html>





Happy

July 1	Barb Frank Shaw Guidi
July 2	Pauline Sprowls
July 5	Blanche Wilson
July 6	Chris Guidi
July 10	Alyssa Ulm
July 15	Jake Suydam
July 18	Jay Ulm
July 29	Caleb Suydam

A special thank you to Pastor Linda for being with us before and during surgery.

Also a special thanks to Keith Quin for his visit with his delicious homemade cherry pie!

May God bless each of you!

Hank Garlish



Please remember to save clean, empty plastic milk jugs and 6 oz. tuna cans for a VBS project!

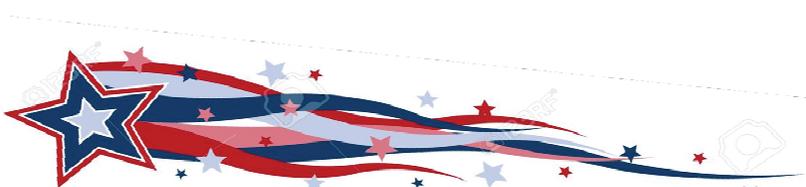


GRACE is getting what you don't deserve.
MERCY is **not** getting what you do deserve.



Congrats to our college and high school graduates: Jake Luna - Bradley University, Cindy Daniels - ICC, Brady Johnson - ICC, Lexi Haynes - Farmington High School, and Colton Evans - Farmington High School. Also, congrats to our 8th graders that were promoted to high school: Sydney Johnson - Farmington Junior High, and Colby Evans - Farmington Junior High.

Our church will be serving food again this year at the July Fourth Picnic in Reed Park on July 4, 2015. The event starts with a parade at 10:30 and food is served from 11:00-1:00 pm. We are looking for people to help in the kitchen cooking burgers and hot dogs, serving and cleaning up. This will be our 4th year participating in this city event. Come join us as we work together in fellowship and support the work of the church! For additional information or to volunteer your time and/or food, please contact Kathy Welch, 245-4286, cell 224-4287.



The Burning Bush – July 2015
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
83 North Cone Street
Farmington IL 61531-1248

Blessings on:



COME WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAYS!

Adult Sunday School class 9:30AM

**Children's Sunday School
classes to resume in the fall.**

Fellowship Time 10:30AM

Worship Service 11:00AM

Join us for a great message and God's word!
Enjoy wonderful music and fellowship
between Sunday School and
Worship Service

**"In the Beginning was
the Word, and the
Word was with God,
and the Word was
God." (John 1:1)**

