

# THE BURNING BUSH

*“People are what their mothers make them.” Ralph Waldo Emerson*

*From the Pastor’s desk...*

On May 8, we celebrate our mothers – who they are, have been, and continue to be in our lives. As I grow older, I have a constant reminder of my mother – each morning when I look in the mirror – there she is. As a young girl, I remember saying to myself that I would never want to be like her. Surprise! I have become her in so many ways. Why is it we never appreciate them when we are young? The sacrifices, the kindnesses, the lessons and, oh, the love. Once in a while, I find myself wishing she were here to share something with her or to just talk and to tell her how I wished I could have made her life easier. Then she would have said, “Nothing in life is ever easy.”

I ran across a wonderful story, written by Erma Bombeck, as a tribute to her mother. Perhaps you have read it before, but so worth sharing. Here goes...

When the good Lord was creating mothers. He was into His sixth day of overtime when the angel appeared and said, “You’re doing a lot of fiddling around on this one.”

And the Lord said, “Have you read the specs on this order? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic; have 180 moveable parts, all replaceable; run on black coffee and leftovers; have a lap that disappears when she stands up; a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair; and six pairs of hands.”

The angel shook her head slowly and said, “Six pairs of hands...no way!”

“It’s not the hands that are causing me problems,” said the Lord. “It’s the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have.”

“That’s on the standard model?” asked the angel.

The Lord nodded. “One pair that sees through closed doors and when she asks ‘What are you kids doing in there?’ When she already knows; another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn’t but what she has to know; and, of course, the ones here in the front that can look at a child when he goofs up and say, ‘I understand and I love you’ without so much as uttering a word...”

“I can’t quit now...Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick, can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger, and can get a nine-year-old to stand under the shower.”

The angel circled the model of the mother very slowly. “It’s too soft,” she sighed. “But tough!” said the Lord excitedly. “You cannot imagine what this mother can do or endure.”

“Can it think?”

“Not only can it think, but it can reason and compromise and dream,” said the Creator.

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek. “There’s a leak,” she pronounced. “I told you you were trying to put too much into this model.”

“It’s not a leak,” said the Lord, “It’s a tear.”

“What’s it for?”

“It’s for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride.”

“You’re a genius,” said the angel.

The Lord looked somber, “I didn’t put it there.”

# SESSION SNIPPETS

BY PAT WELKER

Notes from Apr 12 Session Meeting:

## MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

CHRISTIAN ED: Bonnie and Jodi – VBS curriculum is here and will be held July 17-21. Two of the Sunday school rooms have been painted with one to go.

FELLOWSHIP/MISSION: Jodi and Jay – Progressive Dinner this month. All hosts have signed up as well as 30+ participants. June 12 will be a mission dinner to benefit the Farmer Backpack Program where they send food home with kids over the weekend to insure they have something to eat. The Sunday School Breakfast and Bazaar are going to count as Mission Meals.

NOMINATING: Jodi and Sam; Trustees Clark Evans or Jane Rutledge (for John Black); Deacons, Kay Fairburn or Cozy Hoover and at-large members Steffanie Ulm and Michelle Lane – nothing to report

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE/MEMORIAL and PERSONNEL: Kathy and Jodi – 1) It was decided that a CD be purchased from the Church Savings Account as it would earn much better interest and at this time, the savings account is in good financial shape. 2) The Living Memorial was moved to a different type Money Market Account that receives better interest. 3) Kathy is starting to work on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July cookout. Will have more information at next meeting.

WORSHIP: Jay, Sam and Kathy – Pentecost is May 15<sup>th</sup> and Pastor Linda wants red decorations in the Sanctuary.

EVANGELISM: Kathy and Bonnie (co-chairs) – Kathy to check with Kim to see if 'Bike Rodeo' will be held during July 4<sup>th</sup> Cookout.

TECHNOLOGY: Jay – Brady said that Tadd is getting the part needed to enable the computer in the sanctuary to work with the video screens and make things easier and better.

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP REVIEW: Pat and Kathy – nothing to report

**DEACONS' REPORT**: none

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

The Trustees met on April 3 after worship, with the following members present: Dale Peterson presiding, Jane Rutledge, Clark Evans and Kent Kowal.

Dale reported that the bat problem should be taken care of with the fitting of a lid on the 4' by 4' opening leading up to the bell tower. Also, the opening for the rope to the bell was blocked off with wood, only allowing for the pulling of the rope. These were put in place by Dale, Kent and Tim Ulm, with Tim being the master craftsman in the construction of both items. Nothing had to be re-constructed. With the placement of the locking lid, the howling wind immediately stopped. Dale also climbed up and greased the pulley for the bell!

Dale is going to get bids from Len Schinder of Schinder and Sons, and Steve Crisp of Triple J Masonry for further repair to the bell tower. Both individuals did work for the church in 2013. Will also get bids to paint the four sides of the tower.

Clark will check on the breezeway door not shutting completely and do further work for a heater in the office, as well as look at the heater in the foyer, thinking the flue might be blocked.

Work day is scheduled for April 23, rain date April 30 and Kent will get it in the Burning Bush and contact the Scouts for their help. If we have 'too many hands' we will wash windows!!

## **PASTOR'S REPORT**

March was full with Lenten preparations, services and, of course, Easter. Not to mention new membership classes, services and baptisms. God is about the business of doing new things at Farmington Presbyterian Church. I am so excited to be here during this time of change and possibilities. I pray for the other churches in town that are struggling with the work of the Council of Churches to bring God's word and presence into a new light.

Great Rivers Presbytery met on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Kathy Welch, Keith Quin and Bill Wilson accompanied me. A presentation by Rev. Dr. Jason Santos was given. The Presbytery was mesmerized by his talk. He spoke of ministering to emerging generations: children, youth and young adults and how we might grow those ministries.

Following his presentation, we broke into groups based on church size. Of course, you know me, I had to talk about what is happening here at Farmington. It has nothing to do with me, but God is doing a new thing. We certainly had much to think about and share. We are fully aware of God's hand in our church and even now, Jodi Phillips' soul is moved to establish a Bible study program for the young adults and everyone else that wants to attend.

It seems each Sunday here of late, I am approached by another family or another person inquiring about Membership/Baptism. It's almost as if the doors swung open when we voted to baptize babies and children without requiring the parents to be members. It is all happening and we are blessed indeed.

Rev. Jon Dainty and I met several times to plan the community services of Good Friday and Easter Sunrise. We work quite well together, but wish we had more support from other pastors. It is the community that suffers when other churches do not participate. We have great hopes that things will change soon.

Holy Week was intense, but wonderful at the same time. Palm Sunday was wonderful with the kids' performance and a full house. The attendance for our Maundy Thursday service was great and the service was meaningful. Good Friday was lightly attended at the First Baptist. The Tennebrae service was lovely. Easter Sunrise service was lightly attended as well, but was meaningful for those who came. It goes without saying, our Easter service was Spirit Filled! Later that day I treated myself to some much needed rest.

For March, several visits were made, a Lenten message taken to Farmington Country Manor, a meeting with our COM representative, a PNC meeting, several phone visits, correspondences and two counseling sessions. I logged 68 miles and 120 hours worked.

The Session voted to approve payment of \$33.22 in reimbursable expenses (58 regular miles at \$0.54 for \$31.32 + 10 medical miles at \$0.19 for \$1.90)

### **OTHER NEWS**

The new Bible Study is under way with Dean Warner as the leader. If you missed the session held April 12, don't worry about it. You can still attend the next meeting. Perfect attendance is not required and you can pick up with the group. There is no homework either so that is a plus. The group will meet every other Tuesday, so the next meeting is May 10, Tuesday at 7pm.

Pastor Linda is going to have a Confirmation Class. Once she finds out who is interested, she will order the materials. There will be 6-7 classes and they will be held during Sunday school time. She is trying to make it easier for the young people to attend as they are all so busy. This way they won't have to fit another time into their busy schedules.

# MAY 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 VBS Planning meeting after worship	2 Scouts 6:15PM	3	4 Choir Practice 7-8:00PM	5	6	7
8 Food Pantry and Communion Sunday	9 Scouts 6:15PM	10 Scouts 6:15PM Session 6:45PM Bible Study 7PM	11 Choir Practice 7-8:00PM	12	13 Presbyterian Women 1PM	14
15 PENTECOST Wear Red! Confirmation Begins 9:30am	16 Scouts 6:15PM	17	18 Burning Bush Deadline NOON Choir Practice 7-8:00PM	19	20	21
22	23 Scouts 6:15PM	24 Scouts 6:15PM	25 Choir Practice 7-8:00PM	26	27	28
29 Quin Family Reunion in CE Bldg	30 <b>Memorial Day!</b>	31			<b>Mark your calendars!</b> Cave Quest <b>VBS is coming!</b> <b>July 17-21</b>	

- 1 Emily Phillips
- 5 Jayme Johnson
- 11 Emma Evans  
Ethan Evans  
Crystal Gomes
- 13 Bernita Murphy
- 15 Hank Garlish
- 19 Kathy Skaggs
- 22 Blake Johnson



Jay & Steffanie  
Ulm

Kent & Kathleen  
Kowal



The Burning Bush – May 2016  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
83 North Cone Street  
Farmington IL 61531-1248

Blessings on:



**COME WORSHIP WITH US  
SUNDAYS!**

Sunday School classes for all ages  
9:30AM

Fellowship Time            10:30AM

Worship Service            11:00AM

Join us for a great message and  
God's word! Enjoy wonderful music

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



