

THE BURNING BUSH

...Judges 6:6 "The Lord is with you..."

Judges 6-8 for the rest of the story.

From the Pastor's desk...

On July 10, we will have the privilege of hearing from a representative of Gideons International. Have you ever wondered how they came about and what role Presbyterians play in their mission? Gideons was founded in 1899 and since then has served as an extended missionary arm of the church. It is the oldest association of Christian businessmen and professionals in the USA.

In 1898 two men, John Nicholson and Samuel Hill, both of Wisconsin met one night in a hotel in Boscobel, Wisconsin. They soon discovered they were Christians and shared devotions and prayer. Through them, God planted the seeds which would later develop into an association. On May 31, 1899, they met again and decided to band Christian travelers together to do personal evangelism, give testimonies, and unite in the service of Christ. They called the meeting at the YMCA in Janesville, Wisconsin. Only three men were present at that meeting. John Nicholson, Samuel Hill, and Will Knight. They prayed about what to call the association. Mr. Knight rose from his knees and said, "We shall be called Gideons from the 6th and 7th chapters of Judges.

One of the first projects they began was adopted in 1908, called the "Bible Project." The idea originated with a pastor. You see, a state convention convened in Cedar Rapids, Iowa where Frank Garlick and A.B.T Moore attended this meeting of the Ministerial Union. Garlick spoke of the much needed bible distribution and after his address, Mr. Moore's own pastor, Dr. E. R. Burkhalter of First Presbyterian Church arose and moved that "Gideon Bibles be placed in all local hotels and that the Union be responsible for the funds." And so it was and still is, though contributions come in from around the world in many ways to support this ministry.

Today Gideons is organized in more than 190 countries around the world. Bibles are printed in over 90 languages and through the grace of God, more than 1.9 billion bibles and new testaments have been placed. The work goes on.

We have a heritage as Presbyterians in the founding of the great ministry along with many other Christians who believe in spreading God's word. It is good for us to learn of how the smallest seed can grow to touch the lives of billions. I hope you will take the time to be present for the touching message the Gideon will bring.

Pastor Linda

SESSION SNIPPETS

BY PAT WELKER

Notes from May 10 Session Meeting:

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

CHRISTIAN ED: Bonnie and Jodi – VBS preparations are in full swing. Watch for the food lists to be circulated among the congregation in the near future for your help with food donations.

FELLOWSHIP/MISSION: Jodi and Jay – June 12 mission dinner to benefit the Farmer Backpack Program was a success with \$362 being collected. Thanks to all who donated whether monetarily or with food and help.

NOMINATING: Jodi (for Kathy Welch) 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 – Reported that they are going to recommend Tammy Duley to become an Elder. They will also be asked to talk to Tony Rolando about filling the other open Elder position for the Class of 2018.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE/MEMORIAL and PERSONNEL: Kathy and Jodi –
1) STEWARDSHIP - Letters have been sent to all giving units concerning what was decided at the Congregational Meeting concerning minister. 2) FINANCE - The July 4 Picnic in the Park is coming along with all supplies ordered or to be picked up at the store. Desserts were discussed and it was decided that the desserts would be limited to pies and cookies. Pies for \$2 each and \$1 for 4 cookies per plate instead of selling them for a donation. Other items would remain at same prices.

MEMORIAL: Kathy said that \$325 was received in memorial donations for Bill Wilson.

WORSHIP: Jay, Sam and Kathy – Pulpit will be filled by Gideon on July 10. Pastor Linda is going to request some New Testament Bibles for use at VBS.

EVANGELISM: Kathy and Bonnie (co-chairs) – Bike Rodeo to be held in conjunction with the July 4th Cookout. Michelle has taken charge of this event.

TECHNOLOGY: Jay – Trying to get the Sanctuary computer set up so that Leigh Ann can do the preliminary work for Worship and send it from her computer. At the current time, she is going into the Sanctuary to get the info ready for Sunday.

MEMBERSHIP REVIEW: Pat and Kathy – nothing to report

DEACONS' REPORT

The April 17, 2016, Deacons' meeting was called to order by chairman, Michelle Lane. Those in attendance were Kay Fairburn, Michelle Lane, Beth Martin, Cozy Hoover and Marianne Taylor.

Secretary's report was read and approved

Treasurer's report was same as last meeting

Report on Bill Wilson was given

There have been 43 cards sent and 2 visits made since last meeting

A thank you from Barb Frank was received for the Easter basket

OLD BUSINESS: Easter baskets.

COMMUNION REPORT: Maundy Thursday 19 served. Easter served 68 and April 10 served 45.

May 15, which is Pentecost, is our next Communion. Marianne will bring two loaves of bread. Paraments for that day will be red for one day only, then white for Transfiguration, then green.

The Council of Churches will hold an Ice Cream Social and award scholarships to graduating Seniors. We have no graduates at this time.

We need volunteer baby sitters for May, June and July as our babysitter has that time off.

May 8th is our next meeting.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The May 15, 2016 meeting was held following worship with Clark Evans, Tim Ulm, Jane Rutledge, Dale Peterson and Kent Kowal in attendance.

Discussed and approved a bid from Basso for bell tower work. Basso to perform repair to masonry, boards and any other high work to be done within the time frame of a two week period, as well as scraping and painting of the above mentioned. The bid amount of \$11,000 might be more or less, depending on the amount of time required by 20%.

The other bid approved was from Wages Electric to install a new 200 amp breaker box and breakers and re-order the electrical arrangement in the CE Building within the box.

In other old business it was reported that Spoon River Pest had sprayed the office, CE Bldg. And complete Sunday School area as well as the thresholds and the perimeter of the Church for \$225.

--A light in the Secretary's office had been replaced.

--The louver in the Bell tower has been pulled back into place.

--A left and right end cap need to be placed on the east gutter of the CE Building.

--Talked about drainage issues around the CE Building in vestibule on the north.

Meeting adjourned

PASTOR'S REPORT

May has been another busy month due to 1 funeral and 2 graveside services. Bill Wilson, Gene Chatten and Bill Schmidt. Sedgwicks' has my number! Pastors are pretty slim-pickings' in Farmington.

Farmington Country Manor is always a pleasure to serve. It has taken a long time for the residents to get to know me and now seem familiar. They respond well to the message, songs and Communion. This month 25 Communion were given, residents and a few staff. Also, 4 family members were seen with their mother and given Communion. 2 additional residents were seen.

The Council of Churches met on the 22nd to continue plans for the Pancake Breakfast during Summerfest. There seems to be fewer people doing more of the work. We are ever so grateful for those who are faithful to the cause. Donations are being made again this year by Craig Duley (hogs), Mike Thurman (locker), Hicks Gas (propane) and the Fire Department (facilities).

I was so glad to have a nice turnout Memorial Day weekend. Diana's musical tribute was amazing. We are still ironing the bugs out of the use of the overhead screens for the hymns. As I understand it, we are waiting for licensing to download the hymns off the net. That will save having to manually insert them.

Summer is here for the kids who are enjoying the first couple weeks. The park is busy most days with squeals and laughter. I can view the park from my office and see many people just enjoying the warm days in the shade of the huge tree canopies. I imagine soon, the kids will retreat to their houses to be engrossed on their tablets and iPads rather than actually having to talk to someone face to face. One thing for sure, they will have to socialize during VBS! Some churches now have iPads and computers in the Sunday School rooms! Can you believe it!

Thanks to everyone for your kind words, cards gifts and the gift of "River in Judea" sang by the choir. The best gift I gave myself. You see I thought this was going to be the big one until I did the math. I have yet another year! Now I understand why older people have trouble remembering how old they are—or else they choose not to.

This month, 123 hours were logged, 27 miles, 28 Communion served, several phone visits and correspondences were made in addition to 1 funeral and 2 graveside services.

The Session voted to approve payment of \$79.98 in reimbursable expenses (17 regular miles at \$0.54 for \$9.18, 10 medical miles at \$0.19 for \$1.90 and \$68.90 for clergy wear)

OTHER NEWS

Manse Rental Agreement – Kathy is going to go over the rental agreement and finalize. The ad for rental of manse has been in shopper a couple weeks. There have been a couple calls but they wanted to have pets so didn't work out.

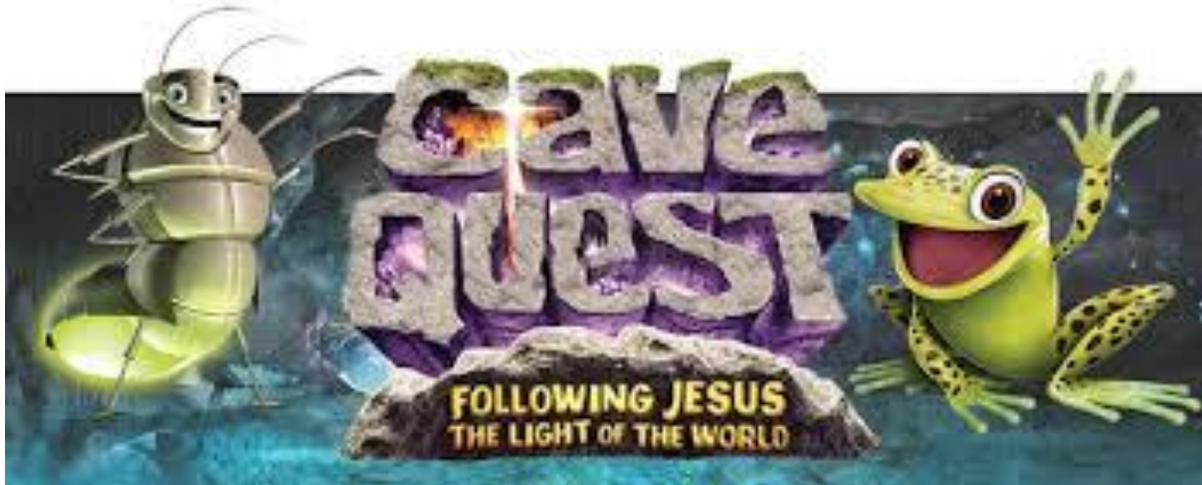
Painting of Sunday School Room(s). 2 rooms done with 1 to go.



Hey, kids!

Have you registered yet?

www.firstpresfarmington.org or call 245-2914



VBS is July 17 – 21! You don't want to miss this!

**FOURTH OF JULY CITYWIDE
PICNIC IN THE PARK**

Our church will again be providing food, drinks and dessert on for the city celebration on July 4th. Set up time will be Sunday evening and Monday's activities will be over by 2:00PM. This is sponsored by the Finance Committee. Your help and support is appreciated.

GARAGE SALE

Evangelism Committee is planning to have a garage sale during the Spoon River Drive fritter sale. Please keep us in mind if you have items you want to part with. We will be looking for donations! Contact Jodi Phillips for more information.

COMEDY CORNER

Four Worms in Church

A Minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon, so he took four worms and placed them into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a container of alcohol.
The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke.
The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup.
The fourth worm was put into a container of good, clean soil.
At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol ... Dead.
The second worm in cigarette smoke ... Dead.
The third worm in chocolate syrup ... Dead.
The fourth worm in good, clean soil ... Alive!

So the Minister asked the congregation, "What did you learn from this demonstration?"
Little Johnny was sitting in the back and quickly raised his hand and said, "As long as you drink, smoke, and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!"
That pretty much ended the service!!

Taken from www.theredheadriter.com at the suggestion of Denise Lane.
Thanks for the laugh, Denise!

JULY 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Sunday school has concluded for the summer and will resume in the fall.</p>					1	2
3 Communion and Food Pantry Sunday	4  Parade 10:30AM Reed Park Picnic 11AM-1PM	5 Bible Study 7PM	6	7	8	9
10 Birthday celebration at fellowship Mission Dinner after worship	11	12 Session 7PM	13 Burning Bush Deadline NOON	14	15	16
17 VBS! Dinner @ 6PM Cave Quest VBS begins at 6:30PM	18 VBS! Dinner @ 6PM Cave Quest VBS begins at 6:30PM	19 VBS! Dinner @ 6PM Cave Quest VBS begins at 6:30PM No Bible Study	20 VBS! Dinner @ 6PM Cave Quest VBS begins at 6:30PM	21 VBS! Dinner @ 6PM Cave Quest VBS begins at 6:30PM	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

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



Clark & Chris
Evans

Keith & Christi
Garlish

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

Blessings on:



**COME WORSHIP WITH US
SUNDAYS!**

Fellowship Time 10:30AM

Worship Service 11:00AM

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

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

