

# THE BURNING BUSH

*“Do nothing from selfishness or conceit,  
but in humility count others better than yourself.”*

*Philippians 2:3-4*

## *From the Pastor's desk...*

Have you ever seen a Special Olympics? Some are physically disabled, some with dyslexia, and others with Down's Syndrome. Often they have wheelchair races, foot races even swimming races. Whichever it is, they all do the best they can and hope to finish and hope to win. One of my favorite stories is about the 100 yard dash. They line up, the crowd with all the proud parents watched. The gun sounds. They take off. One of them stumbles and falls onto the hard surface and begins to cry.

The other contestants hear the cry. They slow down, look back and then every one of them stops, turns around and goes to get the fallen child. A girl with Down's Syndrome bends over to kiss him. “This will make it feel better,” she sweetly says. A few helped him up and all of them linked their arms together and walked across the finish line. Together.

Everyone watching stood and applauded for several minutes. Why do people like me still tell the story? Because joy is the one thing that is multiplied when it is divided. Because those who bring sunshine to the lives of others can't keep it from shining on themselves. Life is too short to live it for yourself. If special needs children can understand the concept so clearly, then why do we have such difficulty embracing it?

The author of Philippians caused me to think of this story. Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others better than yourself. Don't think only of your own interests, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing. In verse one of the same chapter are written these words: “So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection or sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same joy, being in full accord and of one mind.”

Remember: “If you ever think you are too small to be effective, you've never been in bed with a mosquito.” Anita Roddick

Let your joy be known to each other and believe me, it will be known in heaven.

*Pastor Linda*

# SESSION SNIPPETS

BY PAT WELKER

Notes from Aug 12 Session Meetings:

## MINISTRY TEAMS

CHRISTIAN ED: Bonnie and Jodi – 1) Ordering Promotion Bibles of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Going to make sure none of our current kids were missed in the past. 2) Jr. and Sr. High curriculum. Jodi found a website that will be used. 3) Sept 11 will be Kick-off Breakfast for Sunday School with classes beginning on Sept 18. Bonnie will send letters to some of the kids that attended VBS but don't attend Sunday School anywhere, inviting them.

FELLOWSHIP/MISSION: Jodi and Jay – 1) The Sunday School Kick-off Breakfast will be considered a Mission Meal without a collection being taken. The Fellowship Team members will help with the cooking and serving. 2) Hanging of Greens will be November 20<sup>th</sup> and the meal will be determined by the Team. 3) Bazaar date to be determined. Jodi to talk with some of the main organizers from last year to see if they have a preference on the date.

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 - The Team is being encouraged to find a Treasurer Trainee for 2017.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE/MEMORIAL and PERSONNEL: Kathy and Jodi – **Finance:** 1) The rental money from the Manse is being placed in a separate money market account. It will be available for use on an as needed/approved basis. It is \$850 per month with lease until March 31, 2017. 2) The Session voted to pay for the Bell Tower repairs out of the Building Fund. 10% was paid up front and the balance will be due upon completion of the work. If there are no problems, it is estimated an additional \$12,000 will be needed. 3) Good income received during July including the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Cookout profit. **Personnel:** 1) Sydney Johnson has started babysitting during worship.

WORSHIP: Jay, Sam and Kathy – 1) Aug 7, 53 were served Communion. 2) October 30 is Reformation Sunday and the Church should be decorated in plaid.

EVANGELISM: Kathy and Bonnie (co-chairs) – Spoon River Drive is fast approaching, the weekends of Oct 1 and 8. There will be a Rummage Sale in conjunction with the Fritter Sales.

TECHNOLOGY: Jay – The Session voted to approve getting a new computer and software for the Sanctuary.

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP REVIEW: Pat and Kathy – nothing to report

## DEACONS REPORT

July 24, 2016, Deacons' meeting was called to order by chairman, Michelle Lane. Those in attendance were Michelle Lane, Kay Fairburn, Cozy Hoover, Lori Danley, Pastor Linda and Marianne Taylor.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: read and approved

TREASURER'S REPORT: balance of \$105.29

CARD REPORT: 18 cards with 1 visit

## COMMUNION REPORT:

**OLD BUSINESS:** Deacons were under the impression that we were to be greeters, but actually we are to secure people for those positions. We agreed to start sending around a sign-up sheet during August.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Aug.7 will be the next Communion with Cozy and Kay providing bread and setting up for the service. Sydney Johnson has indicated that she needs help with the Nursery when there are more than 5 children in attendance. Deacons decided to reinforce the age limit (kindergarten and below) for Nursery and to have a sign-up sheet for help when there are more than 5 children in attendance.

It was suggested that we start thinking about the possibility of sponsoring a family for help at Christmas time. Next meeting is Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees met on August 7, 2016. Meeting opened at 10:30am with prayer. Present were Dale Peterson, chair, Clark Evans, Tim Ulm and Kent Kowal.

The Trustees recapped current and past projects:

--Replaced the hot water heater in the storage room that had leaked in that room and the men's bathroom, at a cost of \$329.00. Residual leakage from the blocks still pools in the bathroom but should stop soon.

--Trimmed a branch to the west (south) of the Sanctuary entrance and eliminated an evergreen bush at the southwest corner of the Manse.

--Basso and Basso will begin work August 9<sup>th</sup> for two weeks to repair masonry on the bell tower and scrape and paint the louvers on all four sides.

--Will install a new switch for the overhead heater in the CE Building on August 9

--Established fall cleanup for October 22<sup>nd</sup>, with a rain date of October 29<sup>th</sup>.

## PASTOR'S REPORT

I thought things were supposed to slow down in the summer? I don't know who told me that but it isn't the case at FPC. Our summer has been filled with fun and activities, new people to meet and greet, the sounds of children everywhere and plenty of love to go around for everyone. I'm having fun!

During the first week of the month, I traveled to St. Charles, MO to visit dear friends who have been in my life since my youth. Rev. Dr. Bruce Melton was the first to notice my call to ministry back in 1989 and set me on the path that would take me to seminary and beyond. He is 85 now and claims to be retired, but I found it hard to keep up with him and his wife during my time there. We visited Old St. Charles, Innsbrook, their retreat in the woods, and good dining wherever we went. I'm not used to eating like they do. As it is, they eat only one meal at home. Guess that's why they go to the gym 3 days a week. Bruce

was a great force while I was in the midst of my dissertation. Thank you for allowing me a few days away to enjoy them.

I heard good things about the Gideon Sunday. The 100 little Bibles were well received for our children in VBS. I am proud that you had an opportunity to learn what the Gideons are doing around the world.

Cave Quest was an overwhelming success! All the planning, physical labor and work that went into this awesome event was amazing by itself. The only problem I saw was that we set the bar high for ourselves for next year! I want the kind of vitamins Bonnie uses. To see the Sanctuary overflowing with parents and children at the closing night was incredible. The pictures on the website tell the story, but doesn't show my tears of joy.

We continue to welcome new folks. I did not expect to still be having new member classes, but how wonderful is that? There is an air of excitement in this place. The sights and sounds of young voices and busyness of young families who have jumped right in to take their parts in what we do here for God's Kingdom is something we haven't had the pleasure of for a long time. **Let's have a new member gathering sometime soon.** Our Church is experiencing a revival of sorts. There is a Spirit in this place that is moving through all our hearts and opening our eyes to new possibilities.

There are already new things on the horizon. A Bell Choir, Children's Chime training/program, Confirmation Class and my favorite day, Reformation Sunday and of course 136 days until Christmas! (That's 4 ½ months! Tee Hee!)

Things are going great. I am humbled and blessed to be here among you for this part of the journey.

This month, 90 hours were logged, 27 miles, 4 visits, 19 Communion services, several phone visits and correspondences were made.

This month's reimbursable expenses will be included with next month's voucher.

## **THINGS GOING ON IN THE CHURCH...**

Clark Evans has agreed to help get the Bell Choir up and playing again. There will be a survey to find those interested in participating. They will get together and decide on a practice time.

Beth Martin is going to start a Chime Choir with the little kids. The chimes are on order. Once they are here, the kids will learn to play them. This is going to prepare the kids to transition into the Bell Choir when they reach the appropriate age.

The Nominating Team is going to be looking for a Treasurer Trainee this fall when they work to fill the Class of 2019. The Treasurer position is elected by the Session for a yearly term. If this is something you feel you would like to do, contact Sam Rutledge or Jodi Phillips.

## **ICE CREAM SOCIAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

The Council of Churches hosted the annual Ice Cream Social on August 7 at which time Scholarships were awarded to our seniors. This year the Methodist Church hosted the event and there was plenty of ice cream and pie to choose from. There were between 35-45 people attending and all seemed to enjoy themselves. There was only one Scholarship recipient this year. Kristina McVey of the Methodist Church was presented a \$500 Scholarship. Since the Council of Churches hosts the Pancake/Sausage Breakfast it was decided to increase the scholarship amount for the time being. If a year comes up with several graduates, this amount can be revisited. Kristina is going to a Jr. College and plans to study to work in the medical field. Good luck to her.

## Sunday School

resumes

September 18th

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## Kickoff Breakfast

September 11th

at

9:30AM

Amber Lercher will celebrate her 100th birthday with an Open House on Wednesday September 21st, at her home, from 2-4pm.

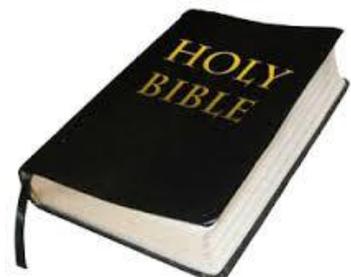


October 1st and 8th

The Evangelism Committee is planning to have a rummage sale during the Spoon River Drive, along with the fritter sale. Please keep us in mind if you have suitable items you want to part with.

We will be looking for donations of household items (no clothing please, per Session minutes), books, and other rummage sale items. Please donate clean appropriate items since this will be a representation of our church. All proceeds are for the benefit of the church.

*Thank you.*



# SEPTEMBER 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 Communion and Food Pantry Sunday	5 	6  Session 7PM	7	8	9	10
11 Sunday School Kickoff Breakfast 9:30AM  Trustees Meeting after worship 12PM	12	13  Bible Study 7PM Session mtg 7PM	14	15	16	17
18 Sunday School resumes  Birthday celebration at fellowship	19	20	21  Burning Bush Deadline NOON	22	23	24
25	26	27  Bible Study 7PM	28	29	30	



- 1 Ethan Ulm
- 2 Steven Johnson
- 3 Wanda Ohaver  
Jean Peterson  
Gisela Schuman
- 21 Sydney Johnson  
Amber Lercher  
Steffanie Ulm
- 22 Todd Guidi
- 23 Mickie Ulm
- 26 Landry Duley



September 3

Wanda & Delano  
Ohaver

We are looking for those interested in helping to run the screens for Sunday morning worship. We would like to establish a monthly list to rely upon. So far, it has been hit and miss. With no one to run the screens, we return to the well-worn standby of using bulletins and hymnals. Not a big problem, but we would like to move into the 21st century with visual aids that help us all. Please be a part of our worship on Sundays. Brady has agreed to tutor anyone who is interested. There will be a sign up list at the back of the sanctuary.

If you would like to know more, please contact the church office or let Pastor Linda know.

### **Behind the scenes...**

A lot has been happening behind the scenes at our church. We tend to take a lot for granted when we enter our sanctuary each Sunday morning to attend Sunday School and Worship. Our church is beautiful, cool and clean. The CE building and Sunday School rooms are the same. The trustees have been very busy working to keep all of our buildings and property updated. These are the current and completed projects: Painting and repairing the bell tower, repairing and painting concrete structures on the front of the church, bee removal from the bell tower, new hot water heater and kitchen faucets in the CE building, a new fuse box and labeling of electrical system in the CE building, repair to the air conditioner in the manse, and repair to the chair lift to the sanctuary.

**A BIG thank you to all of the trustees for their dedication and hard work.**

### **Activities Planned for Spoon River Drive**

The Evangelism Committee is again planning to participate in the SRD on October 1, and 8, 2016. We will be selling apple fritters, Monari chili dogs, and having a flea market/garage sale. This is a very aggressive plan for us to undertake but implemented from a desire from many who want to participate in church activities and a very good way to clean up around the house and eliminate unwanted STUFF! We will be utilizing the CE building and outdoor space around the church. A sign up sheet will be circulating in September for volunteers to help in all the areas on the weekends, and also help during the week to organize our flea market/garage sale items. Household items, small appliances, small furniture, books will be accepted. We do not want clothing. The church will be ready to accept items the week preceding each weekend. For any questions, please contact Bonnie Suydam or Kathy Welch.

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

Blessings on:



**COME WORSHIP WITH US  
SUNDAYS!**

Sunday School	9:30AM
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)**

