

THE BURNING BUSH

My self-assigned task for this month (and the next three) is to write about each of the developmental tasks we will work on during my time with you. This month I will try to shed light on

2. Discovering a new identity – Clarifying and restating the mission of the church

According to Barry W. Williams this task is important because “A serious conversation within the church as to the church’s mission will provide the interim pastor, church leadership, and the Pastor Nominating Committee with invaluable information about the congregation and its life and work. This offers the opportunity to direct attention again to the call to serve and to the opportunities to support the mission in the larger church. A mission study process will also provide clues for the identification of specific goals for the interim as well as for future pastoral leadership.

Friends, we are at the point to begin the mission study process. We still need members to serve on the team which will be leading the process. Ultimately, the entire congregation’s participation will be key to our success.

I invite each member, youth, and friend of the congregation to dream big. How can we make a difference in our area? Which people truly need our help in the name of Jesus Christ? What resources (time, talent, money) are needed in our area in the next couple years? What would make your heart sing? What would make your neighbor’s life better? How can we demonstrate the love of Christ through our actions? How can we be a light in our schools, in the nursing homes, and in the lives of the lonely and poor? In what ways can we support those who serve - our fire fighters, EMT’s, law enforcement, teachers, and others? How can we demonstrate forgiveness to a world that seems bent on revenge? What does love in action look like to a stranger passing through our area? What ministries have made a difference in our past? What can we learn from our history as a congregation? What strengths do we have collectively in our congregation that we can draw on in our future?

These are just a few of questions we need to ask and answer as we seek to discern what God is calling us to do in the name of Jesus Christ as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. I hope you are excited to have these conversations in the days and weeks ahead. I pray that some of you may experience the call to serve on the mission study group!

Blessings,
Pastor Cindy Bean

SNIPPETS

by Pat

Snippets from the May 11 Session Meeting.

Financial Reports/Discussions: Kathy was in attendance and went over the financial reports. She answered the questions presented.

She then went over the Trustees Report that she had written/presented. She presented a quote from Otto Baum Co., Inc. for exterior masonry repairs to lower east window of Church Building. This will include equipment and materials for job and installing temporary shoring as needed for safety. Remove existing wood lintel above window and install two new galvanized steel lintels. This work includes removing rowlock course of brick above the existing wood lintel for the thickness of the wall, removing existing wood lintel, installing new lintels with membrane flashing, stainless steel termination bar and drip edge over outer-wythe lintel and the brick above new lintel. relaying new brick above the lintel and installing new weeps every 16" O.C. in outer-wythe. Then clean up and remove equipment and debris. The bid was presented, and the Session voted to approve.

Kathy also mentioned that there is another big project in the works. When the organ was being repaired, it was found to have plaster dust in the workings. This means that the room that houses the pipes and other organ parts is causing the dust problem. The plaster ceiling of the room is flaking off and getting into the organ workings. The Trustees are working on this and will have more information in the near future.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- The Session voted to approve the consent agenda as presented.
- This consisted of the Meeting Agenda, minutes of the March 9, 2023, Session Meeting (as corrected) and receiving the Clerk, Deacon, Pastor, and Trustee reports.

REPORTS:

○ CLERKS REPORT:

- Correspondence: Thank you from Spoon River Valley School's principal for all the coats and accessories from the Coat Closet. She stated that the items were very much needed/appreciated.
- Email/Text Approvals:
- On March 20, an email was received requesting the use of the CE Building on Saturday, April 22 from 1-3pm. There will be a baby shower for Bonnie Suydam's newest Grandson, Reed, hosted by Jenny Suydam. This was approved.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- **Worship Team – Alissa (chair), Beth, Brady, Sam Sprecher, Diana Rolando & Jane Rutledge.**
 - Worship committee, except Sam, met May 4. We discussed and would like to switch back to the traditional (Old 100 Version) doxology used during Lent. The Session voted to approve using the Old 100 Version of the Doxology.
 - We also discussed adding 1 contemporary Christian song a month, via YouTube. This is a mixed emotion topic. After discussion, it was ok with Session. There will be a meeting with the musicians and worship committee to pick music.
 - Note that Pentecost Sunday is Memorial Weekend.
- **Christian Education Team – Bonnie (chair) & Alissa**
 - Sunday School -- Bonnie checked to see if the requested TV's could come out of the budget but there is no room for them. Kathy Welch/Blanche have a TV that is not a smart TV they are able to donate. Bonnie is going to check to see if we could get a Roku stick to get it to function as a smart TV, hopefully that would meet the need.
 - Last day of Sunday School 5/21/23 and we will have ice cream for the children the last 15 minutes of class. Fellowship will also be an ice cream social that day.
 - VBS -- MEETING May 6, 2023
 - Attendance : Jill Hanley, Michelle Lane, Michele Shipley, Pastor Cindy, Pat Welker, Liz Johnson, Lissy Holder, Bonnie Suydam.
 - Updated contact information: Phone and email addresses.
 - Confirmed the date for VBS as 7/9/23 through 7/13/23.
 - Theme: Rocky Railway
 - Logistics. Again, we will use 3 Sunday school classrooms, the high school room for Crafts, the Ohaver room for Bible Story and the Preschool room for Preschool class. We will ask the congregation for help move furniture from the High school/Jr. High classroom and the Ohaver room after church on May 21st.
 - Discussed schedule and Program on last day. We will essentially use the same schedule as last year, shorten it on Thursday for the program to begin at 7:35 with snacks at the end.
 - Staffing/Volunteers. Had many volunteers and the teams have been set.
 - Mission: Jaxon Anderson and St. Jude. We chose Jaxon specifically because of past family connections and St. Jude to include other area children that would benefit from St. Jude.
 - Finance: We will be having a Mission Dinner on June 11th to raise money for VBS. There is a Visioning grant we will be applying for, and we received a donation of \$60.00 from Jill Hanley.
 - Next Meeting will be June 4th, 2023.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Ryan (chair) & Liz**
 - Finance: 4th of July Picnic in the Park:
 - Ordered 250 burgers through locker plant (\$375 - \$1.50/burger). Need to pick-up July 3rd Monday.
 - Farmington Chamber of Commerce has everything they need

- Contacted Fulton County Health Dept and set there
 - Need to send out sign-ups for help and baked goods
 - Randy Welch will get tent through Vault company.
- Grill from Fire Department and will donate leftover soda to them.

▪ Stewardship/Memorial/Personnel – No Report.

○ **Fellowship and Mission Team – Jodi & Liz (Co-Chairs)**

- June 11 Mission Dinner to support VBS. Meal to be Sloppy Joe with sides. Will contact Jill Hanley at Baptist about the meal.

○ **Evangelism Team – Jodi (chair), Bonnie & Beth**

- Session Meeting 4/14/23 it was decided that the Evangelism Committee will hold two more fundraising events. 1) The first event will be Scenic Drive with the walking tacos & rummage sale---plan to meet and organize in late August to finalize plans. 2) The second will be a Christmas Walk bazaar/dinner. We can start brainstorming food ideas and attractions. A live nativity is a possibility, Beth will see if there are any costumes left from the Passion Play.
- The last event is a monthly food and fellowship bible study with the first to be held in June 22 at 6pm.

○ **Technology Team – Brady (chair) & Ryan**

1. The Audio and Video upgrades have been completed. The Audio works fantastic both in the Sanctuary and Live Stream. Thanks to Tadd for getting us all the right equipment to make the audio side sound so much better.
2. The Hearing Assist device is currently not connected to the sound system along with the CE Building speakers. During the upgrade, the CE Building speakers could not give a clean sound without being really “crackly”. They have been disconnected at the sound system side.
3. The Sanctuary computer Memory has been upgraded as a “band-aid” for the computer to be able to run the Media Shout program and provide the output to the new TVs. (See Discussion Item #2, 3 and 4.)

Discussion Items:

1. Need to discuss replacing/upgrading the Hearing Assist Device: The last device was purchased around 7/3/**2003**. The device has had minimal usage since May 2016. The Session decided to not spend any money on this item.
2. Sanctuary Desktop needs to be upgraded. The plan is to get a "Custom-built" PC that will be designed to handle the Media Shout program efficiently. After the Sanctuary PC is upgraded, then the Old Sanctuary PC will be moved into the church office to be used as a "Secretary" computer. We may need to purchase a monitor for that spot. Then the plan is to move the "Secretary" Laptop to the Sunday school rooms for them to use for various videos and the programs that they have in the sanctuary. The Sanctuary Desktop that is being moved to the Church Office would need to have Microsoft Office installed on it, if the move is approved. The Sanctuary computer does not have Office on it. The current version for "Home & Student" is \$149.99 from BestBuy. (Word, Excel, & PowerPoint). If we have enough

activation keys/can find them, then Office won't need to be purchased. The other option is to remove Office from the laptop and install it on the desktop.

Action Items: These were approved by Consent.

1. Approval of disposal of old video items: Video switcher & Video splitter
2. Approval of disposal of bad wireless lapel microphone transmitter & receiver (old equipment)
3. Approve Quote for Sanctuary PC from ByteSpeed (the Tech Committee Recommends going with their quote) Quote # Q-68736-G6R0
4. Approve Upgrade for Media Shout to Version 7 (Upgrade License)
5. The Session voted to approve.

- **Nominating Team** – Beth, Elder, Sue Lane, Deacon & At-Large members Cozy Hoover, Kathy Welch and Tony Rolando. Will meet in fall.

- **Deacon's Report**

DEACONS MEETING APRIL 23, 2023 (as corrected)

The Deacons met in the CE Building after worship. Meeting opened at 11:50am with prayer by Chair Chris Evans. Those in attendance were Chris, Missy Herron, Sue Lane, Glenene Benson and Pat Welker. March Minutes were approved and Missy reported that the Easter Flowers were \$149. She will see that the bill gets paid.

Cards: Since the March meeting Chris sent 3 cards, Sue 12, Glenene 5, Missy had no birthdays on list and Pat 28.

Communion: Maundy Thursday, April 6 served 27 in worship. Home Communion served to 12 - Pastor Cindy and Chris served Wanda Ohaver at Farmington Village, Blanche Wilson and Wilma Brentz at Courtyard and Larry Roberson, with Donna DeGroot at home. Easter Sunday, April 9, 56 were served.

Sunday, May 7, is next Communion. Missy will bring the bread and **Sue will help prepare elements. Sue will take care of paraments. For Mother's Day, May 14, we will prepare bags of cookies for the mothers/women of the Church to take home. Pat, Sue and Glenene will bake cookies and Pat will provide bags. After discussion, we decided to not have a May meeting since it will be a busy month, with Mother's Day, graduations, etc. June 4 will be Communion Sunday. Chris will bring bread and Glenene will help prepare elements. For Father's Day, June 18, Chris, Pat and Glenene will make cookies which will be used to prepare bags for fathers/men of the Church to take home. Pat will provide bags.

Next meeting Sunday, June 11, after worship.

Meeting closed at 12:10pm with prayer by Missy.

**changed from Chris & Glenene to Sue

○ **PASTOR'S REPORT: May 2023**

- The organ has been repaired and is in working order. The pianos are scheduled to be tuned the end of May.
- Met with family of Dave Waggoner and presented a brief opening/service at the celebration of his life at the Waggoner farm on May 6th.
- Presided at communion on May 7
- Welcomed Ben Arnold to membership in worship on April 23rd.
- Met with session members to talk about Mission Team recruitment and therefore missed the Apr. 23 Deacons meeting.
- Had a week of vacation that began and ended with babysitting. Also included assisting with a legal wedding with religious components that was approved by First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale with the permission of the former pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Marion, IL. Will assist with the previously planned religious ceremony on July 9th, 2023.

The Session voted to approve a vacation day for July 9.

The Session voted to approve the week of July 24-30 as Study Leave.

Sunday July 9 and July 30 will be filled with a guest speaker.

- Met with the church musicians.
- Attended Worship Committee meeting, VBS meeting, the Presbytery meeting.
- I plan to travel back to Carbondale for a few days for three weeks in May. The first week to take care of our family pets while my husband is helping with the move to Denver. The next two to continue working on getting this house that is new to us ready for summer and to continue downsizing our possessions and those that the previous owners left for us to handle.

Pastor's Old Business

- Mission Study – Based on what I am hearing about summer worship attendance I am wondering if we should wait until the fall to begin the mission study process. There will need to be congregation participation in portions of the mission study. At this point we have 3 or 4 people – one of which is a “maybe” and the other one has a time stipulation if it is done this summer. Will keep asking folks to serve on the committee.
- Need to decide if next pastor will be full or part-time or if you would be open to either option. That could be done after the mission study or could be part of what the mission study group looks at in their work.

Pastor's New Business

- Would like to discuss one (or maybe two) crazy ideas per meeting. (Note: This is just an exercise, not a recommendation.) This will give the group time to practice discernment and pushing back on ideas with the pastor. In the process the session will learn more about each other's style in giving feedback and decision-making.

- The first crazy idea to discuss is tearing down the manse (donate all the usable items) and put in a parking lot. Perhaps the town and/or the fire department will partner in the project.

Pro's – more space for parking, less yard maintenance; more visibility for outdoor events like July 4th, Spoon River Drive, Christmas walk; better set up space for parades;

Con's – No house for next pastor to live in; will have to provide cash housing allowance; memory or emotional attachment; no guarantee that next pastor will choose to finding housing in Farmington)

Other pro's and con's?

○ **TRUSTEE'S REPORT: MAY 2023**

Projects Completed:

- a. Spring cleanup completed on April 22. Cabinet removed from CE storage closet and metal shelved added. The cabinet was advertised on FB and picked up. Memory Garden raked and bushes trimmed. Other yard work completed. Big thank you for all who assisted.
- b. New furnace and A/C system was completed.
- c. Ceiling lightbulbs replaced in CE Building. Thanks to Jake.

Ongoing Projects:

- a. Work is continuing in the room behind choir loft.
- b. Bid to be presented to Session for east side basement window repair by Otto Baum.
- c. Hiring of lift for bee removal, chimney removal and fascia repair.
- d. Seeking bids for exterior painting of church windows.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Complete - Request for numbered envelopes for tithes. Liz talked with Mickie about this and the cost would not justify the number of requests. The person wanting the numbered envelopes will be given several of the provided general envelopes currently in the pews. There is a place to note name and what the donations is for (i.e., tithe, Per Capita, etc.).
- July Session meeting will be skipped.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Next meeting June 8, Thursday at 6pm.
- The Session voted to adjourn at 7:47pm with Lord's Prayer led by Bonnie.

First Presbyterian Church Officers 2023

ELDERS: Liz Johnson, Brady Johnson, Beth Martin, Alissa Holder, Ryan Stobaugh, Jodi Phillips, and Bonnie Suydam– Interim Pastor Cindy Bean

DEACONS: Chris Evans, Melissa Herron, Linda Riley, Pat Welker, Sue Lane, and Glenene Benson

TRUSTEES: Clark Evans, Joe Herron, Kevin Phillips, Jake Suydam, Kathy Welch, and Tim Ulm

TREASURERS: Kathy Welch and Cindy Daniels

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES: Mickie Ulm and Michelle Lane

CLERK OF SESSION: Pat Welker

Pastoral Care Contact Information

Church Address: 83 N. Cone St. Farmington, IL 61531
Contact Phone: Interim Pastor Cindy Bean (618)316-1171
Email: cindyb825@gmail.com
Mon, Tues, Wed 8:30 – 2:00 (subject to change)
Office Phone: 309-245-2914(messages checked weekly)
Email: firstpresfarmington@gmail.com

Mission Giving

Food Pantry

The Farmington Food Pantry is open on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 12:30pm – 1:30 pm. The Food Pantry is located at New Hope Fellowship Church 1102 N. State Route 78, Farmington, IL 61531. You do not even need to get out of your car. It is open to anyone in the Farmington area school district or who lives in Elmwood. There is no income requirement. You can now follow the Food Pantry on Facebook at Farmington IL Food Pantry.

Little Free Pantry

On the east side of the CE building, just south of the door, is a Little Free Pantry that the local Girl Scouts put together. This little free pantry is open and free for anyone, anytime. Feel free to drop off any food to help keep it stocked. Also, feel free to take any food that you might need, no questions asked. This food pantry supports those in our community who might need some extra food on those days when the Food Pantry is closed.

Our Church Life

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women met on Friday, May 12 at 1pm for a meeting, Bible study & fellowship. There were 7 ladies in attendance, which was great. We had our business meeting.

We continued the Bible Study on Mary, mother of Jesus. After the meeting/Bible Study, we had coffee and Glenene served a pretzel strawberry/jello dessert. It was very refreshing. All in all, a great day of fellowship.

We decided to take off the summer months and will meet again September 8, Friday, at noon for a potluck. Ladies, please mark your calendars and join us.

Vacation Bible School Collection

Help needed to collect plastic jars – Please bring any used cleaned peanut butter, mayonnaise or nut jars for craft projects. VOLUNTEERS needed to lead the classes each week.

July 4th Picnic In The Park **Volunteers & Baked Goods Needed**

Volunteers, baked goods & supplies needed – Sign-up sheet is going around! This is one of the church's largest fundraisers of the year – please make a point to help in some way. Thank you.

Summer Music Opportunities

Special Music – Grab your favorite instrument or warm up your vocal cords and share your gift with a very appreciative congregation. We promise to cheer you on! By May 7th, a sign-up sheet will be circulated so that you can select your Sunday to gift us with your talent. Feel free to invite friends who don't normally worship with us to share their gifts also. Special music will begin on May 21st and will be offered until the choir returns in September. Wouldn't it be great to hear special music every single Sunday!

Monthly Calendars

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10:30 AM Communion **VBS meeting after church**	5	6	7	8 Session 6pm	9	10
11 10:30 AM **Mission Meal Supporting VBS**	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:30 AM	19	20	21	22 Bible Study Feed the Faith Lite Meal Provided	23	24
25 10:30 AM	26	27	28	29	30	July 1

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:30 AM Communion	3	4 Picnic In The Park	5	6	7	8
9 10:30 AM VBS 5:45-8:00	10 VBS 5:45-8:00	11 VBS 5:45-8:00	12 VBS 5:45-8:00	13 VBS 5:45-8:00	14	15
16 10:30 AM	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 10:30 AM	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:30 AM	31					

Joys & Concerns



June Birthdays

3 Mike Daniels **5** Linda Elliott **6** Grace Berry **15** Cindy Daniels **16** Jodi Phillips **19** Gracie Duley **25** Chris Evans **27** Abbie Phillips; Kathy Welch **29** Sam Rutledge

July Birthday

2 Pauline Sprowls **5** Blanche Wilson **10** Alyssa Ulm; Tammy Duley **15** Jake Suydam
18 Jay Ulm **29** Caleb Suydam

June Anniversaries

9 Tony & Diana Rolando **18** Sam & Jane Rutledge

August Anniversaries

8 Ralph & Pat Welker; **12** Darrel & Crystal Gomes

✝ Prayer Requests ✝

Joys: Graduations!! New Sound Equipment in the Sanctuary!!

Prayer Requests: Diana Rolando's mother, Eileen Dillard; Dale Benson's son-in-law, Kevin; Claire Herron; Chris Evans' sister, Michelle; Darryl Phillips; Bud Stobaugh; Darryl Phillips; Patty Benson; Chris Evans' brother-in-law, Chris; Wanda Ohaver; Carol Roberts; Marilee Stephan; JoAnn Ray; Dave Moermond, Wanda Ohaver's son-in-law; Corbin Rutledge; Sam Rutledge; & Steffanie Ulm's Aunt Chris.

Bereavement:

Those in Assisted Living: Blanche Wilson and Wilma Brentz at Courtyard Estates; Wanda Ohaver at Farmington Village Nursing & Rehabilitation; Leigh Ann Taylor, The Loft; Eileen (Diana Rolando's mom) Red Oak Estates.



We try to keep our BB prayer list as current as possible. Please notify the office to update a prayer request listed, to add a new prayer request, or to remove a prayer request. Please contact us at firstpresfarmington@gmail.com

Have a favorite hymn? If you'd like to sing it this summer let a member of Session or Pastor Cindy know.

Vacation Bible School will be July 9 – July 13, 2023

Mission Meal for VBS – Sunday June 11

New Audio Equipment in the sanctuary to help pick up hymns during the service for Facebook/You Tube –
Be Aware – You may be recorded!

If you would like to add something to next month's Burning Bush, please submit it to the office by the last Monday of the month. We prefer receiving it by email at firstpresfarmington@gmail.com or by dropping it off in the office.

Moving....Please be sure to provide your new contact information to the church office or a session member.

We thank you for sending in your tithes and offerings, especially. You may either bring your tithes and offerings to worship or you may send your tithes and offerings directly to Mickie Ulm, our financial secretary. Her address is 516 Idlewhile Ct. Farmington, IL 61531.

**The Burning Bush
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
83 North Cone Street
Farmington IL 61531-1248**



COME WORSHIP WITH US:

First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, IL
Worship Service is at 10:30AM, Sunday
mornings, on Facebook Live and in person

Video of worship service will be posted on:

YouTube: First Presbyterian Church of
Farmington, IL
&

On the website:

www.firstpresfarmington.com

Blessings on:

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

