

THE BURNING BUSH

My self-assigned task for this month (and the next two) 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 3. Strengthening Denominational Ties.

As you most likely know, as the Interim Pastor, I am a member of the Presbytery of Great Rivers. “The presbytery is the council serving as a corporate expression of the church within a certain district and is composed of all the congregations and ministers of the Word and Sacrament within that district.” G-3.0301.

The Presbytery has the responsibility and power to:

- a. *Provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard.*
- b. *Provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received.*
- c. *Nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ.*

The above responsibilities and powers make the Presbytery responsible to help First Presbyterian Church of Farmington during its call for a pastor. This means that **volunteers** in the area will attend meetings with the search committee and the session. Their help will be especially crucial because the nuts and bolts of the search process have **just** changed. Your Interim Pastor doesn’t know anything about the forms or even how to navigate the website at this point. Even the volunteers tasked with helping us will be learning also! When we get ready for this part of our search, prayers for all involved will be appreciated.

The Presbytery will check in during our search process. They will check reference at the Presbytery level. They will pay for and conduct background checks which even include a financial check! They will also interview our final candidate(s) and even vote to approve the next pastor. They are looking forward to celebrating with First Presbyterian Church of Farmington when a new pastor is called! In the meantime, the Presbytery is always looking for people with time and specific skills and interests to volunteer to assist other congregations with their work. I know that this congregation has had members involved in Presbytery work in the past. Perhaps you are being called to it too!

Blessings,
Pastor Cindy Bean

SNIPPETS

by Pat

Snippets from the June 8 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. She talked about the completed projects and what work is being done around the Church. She then talked about the pending projects and what is being done about them. They have finally found a couple painters that came to look at the stained-glass windows and are hoping to get quotes from both to treat and paint the framing.

REPORTS:

- CLERKS REPORT:
 - Correspondence: None
 - Email/Text Approvals:
 - Text sent Tuesday, May 16, to approve removal of the locust tree and stump in front yard of Manse and the estimated cost from Advanced Tree Service (Jeremy Pierson). All approved
 - Text sent Wednesday, May 17, to approve having Dustin Watson remove some of the pipes for the organ so that the plaster dust can be cleaned up. He will also look into the source of the plaster and hopefully recommend a solution to the problem. He provided the estimated cost. All approved.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- **Worship Team – Alissa & Beth (co-chairs), Brady, Sam Sprecher, Diana Rolando & Jane Rutledge.**
 - Attendance seems pretty decent for summer so far. There are a few signed up for special music. I think we are still looking into the ability to get rights to stream from YouTube during service. We don't have them now, but Brady was checking on the cost and possibility. Hopefully people have gotten some favorite hymns to Pastor Cindy for summer music options.
- Beth reported that the pianos have been tuned.

Update/Discussion items from Brady:

- Church Metrics App to Track Attendance during Church services to be able to have the data plotted to see any trends that are happening. We can have multiple users on the same "church" so that others can add the attendance if someone is not there. Brady has imported all of the data that he could find from 2018 to current. Brady plans to pull the numbers from the little attendance calendar at least monthly to be able to make sure it is up to date. The current users are Alissa Holder, Brady Johnson, and Cindy Bean. If anyone else needs to be added we can add them to the App/Website. The website is more user-friendly than the app, but the app works for inputting the attendance.
- YouVersion Bible App. This could allow for pushing Devotionals and other worship-related items out to the congregation via an App on their phones. This could be useful for the Men's Bible Study group and possibly other groups to be able to have their events on the app to

share content. It is a free app. There are a few more apps available that are free (<https://open.life.church/apps>)

○ **Christian Education Team – Bonnie (chair) & Alissa**

- Bonnie went over the need for background checks for VBS people, as needed for Insurance. The Session voted to approve getting background checks on people who might be alone with the children, away from everyone else. Per Bonnie's recommendation, she will get checked as well as the 3 adults who are "herding" the children and the Security person(s).
- We will be making sure that no child will be alone with an adult/youth helper. They must always be escorted by 2 people.
- The Session authorized Pastor Cindy to sign the background screening contract. She will represent the church and have the authorization to request the background screening. Once that has been signed, there will be access given to the system and also to the online training course. Once the course has been reviewed, we can determine who should view that course.
- It will take 5 business days to get each background check. Those checks are considered good for 3 years.

VBS Meeting Minutes 6/4/23

- Attendance: Liz and Brady Johnson, Missy, Adela, Brielle and Joe Herron, Pastor Cindy, Pat Welker, Michelle Lane, Michele Shipley, Alissa Holder, Jill Hanley and Bonnie Suydam.
- Staff assignments were reviewed and questions addressed.
- Discussion about background checks and confirmed that with session approval the checks would need to be done on Bonnie, Preschool leaders (Lissy has already had one done and will check about Sydney) the team shepherds and the security persons. Total of 6 or 7 at \$11.00 each.
- Leaders, if assistance purchasing supplies for their station is needed get a list to Bonnie by Wednesday 6/14/23.
- If leaders purchase supplies, get the receipts to Bonnie who will forward those to Cindy Daniels in order to get reimbursement checks sent out. A picture sent from phones will work if needed.
- Team Updates -
 - Publicity – Flyers will be distributed next weekend and a post will be put on Facebook.
 - Registration – On-line registration is active.
 - Food – Michelle has sent in for the food permit. Pat will get menu and snacks.
 - Decorations – Team is working, the basement is done.
 - Crafts – We have about 29 peanut jars and 10 mayonnaise jars so far. Michelle would prefer peanut butter type jars as they would make it easier for the style of lanterns she is making.
 - Recreation – An inventory of the items listed in book that we have on hand (pool noodles, Tennis balls etc.) Joe took the book/list to start looking into it.
 - Bible Story – Missy voiced concerns about the story using up enough time and is looking for fillers. It was decided that she would do the Watch for God experiences which would

involve the children in discussion and be a great time filler. "Watch for God" bracelets ordered.

- Music – Working on songs and other things for the opening. Bonnie will get the DVD and words to the songs to Adela so she can pick out a couple of songs. Scripts have been given to Brielle and Joe.
- Finance: The application for the Visioning grant has been sent requesting \$1977.00. Praying they will come through for us. The Mission dinner is Sunday 6/11/23. Hoping for a good turn out! Jill Hanley and Liz Johnson donated a total of \$60.00. Donations to date \$120.00. \$60 spent on Posters.
- Date for decorating sanctuary – Need to move sanctuary furniture on 7/2 with decorating to start on 7/3 at 6:30, then as needed on 7/5 and 7/6 at 6:30.
- The team discussed doing FB Live for the opening and songs every night and for the Finale on Thursday night so Jaxon Anderson (our Mission recipient) and others can watch from home. There is a release from Group publishing to allow us to do this. We also want to provide Jaxon with daily packets including the bible story and crafts so he can be part of VBS.
- We will meet on 7/9/23 at 5:20 for a quick huddle with all staff and youth volunteers. Bonnie will touch base the week before with leaders and shepherds as needed.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Ryan (chair) & Liz**
 - Finance 4th of July Picnic
 - All squared away with permits and licenses and burger order.
 - Sign-up sheets to continue circulation for all items needed/volunteers.
 - Kathy looking into Kitchen Cooked individual bags through their rep. If doesn't work out, will get individual Lays chip bags picked up.
 - Advertising – the people in charge of the event usually put an ad in the Elmwood Weekly Post, listing events and food. Pastor Cindy will contact Alissa to have her make sure it is on FB pages for Farmington and surrounding areas.
 - Stewardship, Memorial, Personnel - No report.
- **Fellowship and Mission Team – Jodi & Liz (Co-Chairs)**
 - June 11 Mission Dinner to support VBS.
- **Evangelism Team – Jodi (chair), Bonnie & Beth**
 - Feed the Faith Bible Study is June 22 from 6-7pm.
- **Technology Team – Brady (chair) & Ryan**

Update Reports:

- Sanctuary PC has arrived and has been installed. The first Sunday to be run with the new computer was June 4th. The old sanctuary computer is currently running and sitting in the Choir loft connected to the internet. I can access it from the new sanctuary computer if I need to retrieve any items from it. In the next few weeks, I will reset the computer and install the programs for the "secretary" computer to be changed out. The plan is to leave both computers in the office for now until we figure out what needs to be transferred. The laptop has a lot of old files that are not of any use or current to waste the storage of being moved to the new computer. My plan is to reset the laptop for the Sunday school teachers at the end of August.

- Office 2021 purchase has been completed and is ready for the new desktop once it is installed.
- **Nominating Team** – Elder – Beth (Chair), Deacons - Sue Lane & At-Large members Cozy Hoover, Kathy Welch and Tony Rolando. Will meet in fall.
- **Deacon's Report**
DEACONS DID NOT MEET IN MAY
- **PASTOR'S REPORT: May 2023**
Pastor Activities
Had a visit scheduled that I had to cancel due to a last-minute notice that daycare didn't have a slot for my granddaughter.
Hoping to schedule a couple of visits in the next couple of weeks. Looking forward to attending the next Deacons' meeting so we can schedule communion visits again.
Attended VBS meeting, held a music planning meeting, planned worship passages for the summer, wrote newsletter article, usual worship activities - communion, etc.

Discussion Topics

Should we plan to visit churches in the area to see what is happening in worship and in other ways?

- Opportunity to feel/remember what it is like to navigate a building and a worship service as a visitor.
- Opportunity to see what sharing a pastor is like - someone could attend worship in Yates City and in Elmwood to see how Marla navigates that challenge.
- With local churches it would be a chance to see what attendance and activities are really like.
- Someone could go to Northwoods and see what they offer currently.

What if session members only served on one committee and other congregation members served on committees so that session members aren't the only ones doing the vast majority of the work?

Action Items

- The Session voted to change the previously approved July 24-30 Study Leave to Vacation Leave and July 19-24 as Study Leave. Plan to read a book on part-time ministry, work on confirmation prep, and mission study preparation while on Study Leave.
- Marla Bauler (Elmwood and Yates City) has agreed to cover for emergencies during my study leave and vacation. I am doing the same for her current vacation.
- Mission Study appointments- not having much luck getting enough people to join the group. Still working on this.

○ **TRUSTEE'S REPORT:** June 2023

Trustees met on Sunday, June 4 with Joe Herron, Jake Suydam, Tim Ulm and Clark Evans present.

Projects Completed:

- a. Chimney torn down to roof line and capped.
- b. Fascia repair completed on front of church.
- c. Beekeeper here but unable to remove bees. They are into the roof area.
- d. Tree/stump removed from front yard of Manse; dirt brought in. Will see in Fall.
- e. Ceiling in organ pipe room repaired.
- f. Weeds on Manse patio sprayed.

Ongoing Projects:

- a. Support beam and repair above east basement window to be repaired by Otto Baum. No date set.
- b. Bids out for exterior painting of stained-glass windows of Sanctuary.
- c. Organ repair, Watson Organ Service. Pipes are in the repair shop.
- d. Cleaning of room behind choir loft.

OLD BUSINESS:

- July Session meeting will be skipped.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Next meeting Thursday, August 10 at 6pm.
- The Session voted to adjourn at 7:24pm with Lord's Prayer led by Bonnie.

Two Wolves

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two wolves inside us all."

"One wolf is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogances, self-pitty, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego."

The other wolf is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute, then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

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 will meet again September 8, Friday, at noon for a potluck. Ladies, please mark your calendars and join us.

Feed the Faith Bible Study

The first meeting of Feed the Faith Bible Study was held on Thursday, June 22nd at 6pm. There were 11 adults and 3 kids there. Jodi, Bonnie & Kaitlyn provided a wonderful meal for us, including brats, nachos, tacos, salad, chips, dessert, etc., etc. We had plenty of great food. During the meal, we started listening to a Podcast concerning being on the alert for Satan being around and among us. It was very interesting and provoked a lot of good discussion. I really enjoyed it and what I have heard from others, they also enjoyed it. We all look forward to the July meeting. Jodi is to decide a day/time and will make sure all will know when it is. She plans to have some type of food whether that is desserts, finger food, or whatever. The main thing is to come and listen to the Podcast and join in the discussion. It is very worthwhile. – Pat Welker

Monthly Calendars

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:30 AM Communion	3	4 Picnic In The Park 11 - 1	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					

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:30 AM Communion	7	8	9	10 Session 6 pm	11	12
13 10:30 AM	14	15 PEO 7 pm	16	17	18	19
20 10:30 AM	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:30 AM	28	29	30	31		

Joys & Concerns



July Birthdays

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

August Birthdays

4 Kay Fairburn **5** Kathleen Kowal **7** Sue Lane; Ralph Welker **18** Deb O'Donnell;
Beth Martin **23** Bonnie Suydam

July Anniversaries

2 Clark & Chris Evans

August Anniversaries

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

✝ Prayer Requests ✝

Joys: Second Golden Birthday for Blanche Wilson on July 5!! Tammy Duley is celebrating 1 year since her last cancer treatment and she's cancer free!! Cindy Daniels retired from Bank of Farmington!! VBS Mission Meal Support was amazing!

Prayer Requests: Diana Rolando's mother, Eileen Dillard; Dale Benson's son-in-law, Kevin; Chris Evans' sister, Michelle & brother-in-law, Chris; Bud Stobaugh; Darryl Phillips Wanda Ohaver; Carol Roberts; Dave Moermond, Wanda Ohaver's son-in-law; Corbin Rutledge; Sam Rutledge.

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 July 9 – July 13, 2023
Pre-register online

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)**

