



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 19.20 May 17, 2015

Dear Fellow Companions of the Way,

I begin with my personal thanks for countless members who joined in our cottage conversations on May 3rd and those of you volunteering your services in this time of transition. God has great plans for us (*Jeremiah 29:11*) at First Presbyterian Church.

Can you imagine what God is calling us to be? It will be something new and exciting. As we journey in these times there are some excellent readings I might suggest: the Oxford or HarperCollins study bibles in the NRSV or REB translations; *Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear* by Scott Bader-Saye; *Journey in the Wilderness* by Gil Rendle; *Tribal Church* and *Reframing Hope* by Carol Howard Merritt – who will be our guest preacher at 10:30 on Sunday, June 7th.

Our personnel board is reading *Effective Staffing for Vital Churches* by Bill Easum and Bill Tenny-Brittian, and our session is reading *Rich Church, Poor Church* by Clif Christopher. While Clif Christopher is a stewardship consultant, his message is the church today does not lack money, it lacks commitment to Jesus Christ. The mission of the Church begins with Jesus, and continues with disciples going into the world in Jesus' name. Rich churches talk about mission; Poor churches talk about survival. Rich churches focus on changing lives; Poor churches focus on lack of money. Rich churches talk about discipleship; Poor churches talk about appeasing members. Rich churches focus on Jesus and his Lordship; Poor churches focus on us, the institution. Rich churches understand themselves to be led by God with a new vision for a new world.

Lastly, congratulations again to our graduating students, and countless thanks to all who are active in ministry inside and outside the walls of the church.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Charlie

Charles Marshall Webster

The Session

2015 Boeve, Traci
Kingsley, Patti
Odom, Phil
Olsen, Mary

2016 Doerr, Karen, *clerk*
Fong, Matt
Hermann, Kim
Hoff, Susan
Meyer, Al

2017 Junker, Chris
Nielsen, Erik
Redline, Tim
Strasheim, Cindy

Moderator: Charles M. Webster
Interim Associate Pastor: Berke Landrum

NEWS OF MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Recently hospitalized:
Mary Northrop – MLMH

Back Home:
Jeff Howard
Bernie Tushaus



Wednesday Night Live

May 13 Last night – no classes Cookout at Lib’s Park begins @ 6:00
Please bring a side dish or dessert.
We’ll see you there!

THANK YOU WNL Volunteers 2014 – 2015

Thank you to all the WNL teachers. They are: Kris Horton, Brady Rhodes, Abbey Shetler, Jane Marsh, Ricki Frasier, Stephanie Brader, Jill Kramer, Hannah Fagiolo and Ann Koozer covering up to 5th Grade. Middle School sponsors included Traci Boeve, Stacy Edelman, Mu Chi Phi fraternity, Rev. Berke Landrum (Planner) and Lois Hafer (Advisor). Senior High Sponsors included Tom and Leah Ratzlaff, Mu Chi Phi, Erica Brooks, Teresa Canady, Becky Meyer and Rev. Berke Landrum.

Music was led by Tim Canady, Teresa Canady, Alice Throckmorton, Ashley Ehrich, Linda Johnson and Mary Plock.

Meals were planned by Susan Oliver and Nancy Grams in the fall. Special thanks go to Amy Hermes and Justin Brader. Our Dinner Dean was Chris Schukei. Our Table Parents were Erica Brooks, Justin Brader, Steph Brader, Lois Hafer, Becky Meyer, Mike Meyer, Jim Wenburg, Rogene Wenburg, Wendy Propp and Daveta Brader. Our greeters were Don Canady and Pam Canady. Finally, thanks to Judy Brown for setting the tables.

Without all of you, our children would miss great fellowship. Thank you very much,
Rev. Berke Landrum

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN SUMMER BOOK CLUB

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE AND STILL BE A CHRISTIAN: STRUGGLING WITH DIVINE VIOLENCE FROM GENESIS THROUGH REVELATION,

by John Dominic Crossan

June 3 – July 8 Wednesdays at 12:00 in the Anderson Conference Room
(feel free to bring a sack lunch)

Facilitators: John Harrington and Charlie Webster

John Dominic Crossan, the acclaimed Bible scholar and author of *The Historical Jesus and God & Empire*, grapples with Scripture's conflicting visions of Jesus and God, one of a loving God, and one of a vengeful God, and explains how Christians can better understand these passages in a way that enriches their faith.

Many portions of the New Testament, introduce a compassionate Jesus who turns the other cheek, loves his enemies, and shows grace to all. But the Jesus we find in Revelation and some portions of the Gospels leads an army of angels bent on earthly destruction. Which is the true revelation of the Messiah and how can both be in the same Bible?

Crossan explains how to navigate this debate and offers what he believes is the best central thread to what the Bible is all about. He challenges Christians to fully participate in this dialogue, thereby shaping their faith by reading deeply, reflectively, and in community with others who share their uncertainty. Only then, he advises, will Christians be able to read and understand the Bible without losing their faith.

Come join us as we explore this exciting, provocative, and inspirational book!

Nepal disaster assistance giving

Many have expressed concern and interest in how we might respond in generosity to Nepal. Our church, PC(USA), has established a gift line:

presbyterianmission.org/donate/make-a-gift/

Other types of gifts, such as in-kind giving, await the request on the people in need. The PC(USA) website has a full explanation.

We may also add our prayers. *Thessalonians 5:17* encourages us to pray continually. Following a disaster, our best response is first to seek God's presence on behalf of those in need.

Worship resources offer you and your congregation ways to pray, sing, and together invite the love of God to lead our response as we seek to reflect the hope that is found in Christ.



Contact Traci Boeve if
you have any
questions.
tboeve@hastings.edu
(402) 461-7789

Are you currently attending or
do you plan on attending a
Presbyterian college or university?

**First Presbyterian Church is proud to
once again offer the
Ann L. Binfield Scholarship for the
2015-2016 academic year.**

Applications are available at
Church office.
Completed applications should be emailed
to Traci Boeve or dropped off at church
office.

DEADLINE May 18, 2015



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - June 1-5

Registration Form (one per child)

Child's name: _____ M ___ F ___

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____

Last grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State & Zip: _____

Home phone() _____ Parent/caregiver cell phone() _____

Home email address _____ Church _____

T-shirt size _____ (T-Shirts are \$5)

YSX(2-4) YS(6-8) YM(10-12) YL(14-16) YXL (18-20)

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

(Y/N) I give permission for my child/children to be photographed and/or videotaped and to use photographs or videos in all forms of media, for any and all promotional purposes including advertising, display, audio visual, exhibitioner editorial use.

Please sign: _____

(Return to the church office or to e-mail to Becky Spurgeon: bewhite89@yahoo.com)



**American Cancer Society Relay For Life
of Adams County
Saturday, June 6, 4:00 – 10:30 PM
Hastings High School Track**

To Remember or Honor a Loved One

Relay For Life is the nationwide, signature event of the American Cancer Society. It is a community event in the fight against cancer, and as part of the ceremonies, volunteers and survivors line the track with luminaria (lighted candles in weighted, white bags) inscribed with an individual’s name. At sunset, everyone is invited to participate in the incredibly moving Luminaria Ceremony and observe a heart-felt-moment of silence as the candles are lit. Each luminaria is lit in honor of someone who has survived cancer or in memory of someone who has lost his or her battle to cancer. Donations for luminaria are \$10 each. All money goes to the American Cancer Society mission to help others Stay Well, Get Well, Finding Cures and Fight Back.

First Presbyterian Church once again will be participating this year. We were able to raise \$2,000.00 for the past 3 years and are working towards a new goal of \$3,000.00! Luminaries are available each Sunday at a table in the Memorial Room or in the church office during the week. Donations can also be made via the web site:

www.RelayForLife.org



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2015

Wednesday, May 20

- 9:30 Circle 1 – Eleanor Jorgenson
- Circle 2 – Kathleen Nelson ----- meet in the library
- 1:15 Circle 3 – Fellowship Hall

NOTICE ***Home Page can be e-mailed to you!***

We are inviting all members of the congregation to sign-up on the FPC website, to receive the Home Page via e-mail. With us not being able to predict how long mailing will be taking out of the Omaha Post Office, we can’t guarantee a 2-day delivery any longer. If you would like to sign-up, please go to FPCHASTINGS.ORG on the web and under the heading of “Newsletters” within the section of Home Page, you can sign up directly. Call the office if you need any assistance in completing this.

Home Page

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The Home Page

A publication of
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621 North Lincoln Avenue
Hastings, NE

Transitional Pastor
Rev. Charles M. Webster
Interim Associate Pastor:
Rev. Dr. Berke Landrum

Publishing Guidelines:

The *Home Page* is a weekly publication for the people and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

The newsletter seeks to inform, instruct and challenge its readers to become engaged in the ministry of FPC.

Articles will be accepted on Monday of each week. Submissions will be edited for length and suitability. You may send articles to the church office or call 402-462-5147.