



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 19.34 September 13, 2015

Dear Fellow Companions of the Way,

I pray you will be with us this Sunday, September 13, at one or both of our two worship services: Celebrate Worship in Fellowship Hall at 8:30 and traditional worship with the chancel choir in the Sanctuary at 10:30. **At both services we will hear an update from our PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee).** Dale Behrens has been elected by the PNC to be their chairperson. More information will be shared on Sunday.

Now here's a story, probably apocryphal:

An elderly woman returning home from a church service startled a burglar in her home. "Stop!" she yelled, "Stop! *Acts 2:38!*" (which says 'turn from your sin'). The intruder stopped dead in his tracks as the woman calmly called the police to report she had apprehended a burglar in the act of robbing her home. As the police officer handcuffed the man, he asked him, "Why did you freeze? She said she was simply quoting scripture to you." "Scripture?" said the burglar, "I thought she said she had an axe and two .38s!"

I do believe in the power of scripture to change hearts and re-focus lives, but the story above may be a bit of a stretch. Even so, when the traumas of life come along, we have words from scripture to sustain us.

In my childhood, scripture memorization was encouraged by my parents and Scottish Presbyterian grandparents as well as by my Sunday School teachers. I memorized countless scripture verses, including many *Psalms* (in the Authorized Version from King James). Today, I have several translations of the Bible, including Hebrew and Greek texts. But what the story above tells us is that at a time of trial and testing, it is helpful to have scripture right at hand in a moment of need.

Read and study the Bible. You never know when – or how – it will be most helpful. In the near future, Kili Wenburg and I hope to offer the *Disciple Bible Study* program. In the meantime, I guide the Wednesday Breakfast Bible study (7:00am), and Kili will be assisting in the PW Horizon Bible Study.

For your counsel: recently our kindergarteners were given copies of the *Spark Bible Story* and our third graders were given copies of the *Deep Blue Kids Bible* in the Common English Version. Later, our eighth-graders will be receiving the *New Oxford Annotated Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version*. Stephanie Brader and I commend the first two for young children, and I recommend for adult study: the *New Oxford Annotated Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version* or the *HarperCollins Study Bible (NRSV)* or the *Oxford Study Bible: Revised English Bible*.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Charlie

Charles Marshall Webster

Adult Sunday Morning Class plus

Fun, Learning, and Faith Development for Adults

1. Check out the second part of “Change, Uncertainty, and the Peace that Passes all Understanding” Sunday mornings, 9:15-10:15, in the Parlor (*note new location*).
2. Learn about “Christianity’s Family Tree” on Sunday mornings, 9:15-10:15, in the Anderson Conference Room.
3. All young women of the church are invited to the Mariners’ *Girls Night Out* on Thursday, Sep 10, 7:00 p.m. at the Art Bar downtown.

Adopt-a-Student College Outreach

Being able to depend on a warm and caring local family can mean a great deal to college students living away from home for the first time. ***Would you consider “adopting” a college student for the 2015-16 school year?*** In doing so, you would commit to offering regular expressions of love, such as sending a birthday card, delivering a mid-term care package, offering a ride to church, buying lunch, providing use of your laundry facilities, and so on. ***If you are a college student, would you like to be adopted?*** Whether you’re interested in adopting or being adopted, call Kili at the church office. You’ll be glad you did!! The relationships built are priceless, and the blessings go both ways!

Save the date: Adopt-a-student kick-off cook-out will be Saturday, September 19!

Did you know?

Kili Wenburg, Director of Adult Education and Spiritual Formation, can be found in her office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. She would love to meet with you and work with you to find ways of encouraging adults in our congregation to continue to learn about and grow in their faith. Stop in sometime and say hello!

Future Events to Note

Sunday, September 20 – 10:30am Worship Service
Church musicians commissioned for 2015-2016

Sunday, October 4 – 10:30am Worship Service
-Hastings College Sunday
-World Communion
-Peace and Global Witness Offering

Thursday, October 8 – 7:00pm
Taize worship service in the Chapel (monthly every 2nd Thurs.)

Sunday, November 1 – All Saints' Day
9:15 – Special communion class, grades 1-5 in the sanctuary
12:00 – New member luncheon and class

Reflections.....

Early in my ministry I would listen closely when people said, "The church should be doing this," or "The church ought to do that," and I would immediately put the idea in my pastoral backpack. After a while the load became so heavy that I collapsed. I began to learn to give responsibility back. I found myself learning to say things like, "That's an important need all right. How do you think you can respond to it?" If I wanted to be even more blunt, I would say, "I am not especially interested in hearing what you think the church should be doing, but I am very interested in hearing what you believe God is calling you to do."



From *Leadership Matters* by Anthony B. Robinson

THE SESSION

Charles M. Webster, Moderator

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2015

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Phil Odom
Mary Olsen

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Al Meyer

2017

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In Memoriam

Shirley A. Aabel, September 28, 1927 – August 2, 2015



Memorial service for Shirley A. Aabel will be held this Friday, Sept. 11, in the Sanctuary at 10:30am. Pastor Charles M. Webster and Rev. Duane Queen will be officiating. Immediately following, a light luncheon will be served in Fellowship Hall and burial will be in Lincoln at 2:30pm.

Langenberg Lesson Program- This program is available to children and youth of First Presbyterian Church who are members or whose parents are members. The student must be 6-18 years of age and must be studying voice, organ, instrumental, violin or guitar with a private teacher. The student must participate in a First Presbyterian Church music program. You will be reimbursed at the end of the semester for the cost of your lessons up to \$250 per semester per student. Applications are available in the church office or you may request one be emailed to you. **Registration deadline is September 30, 2015.**

Hastings Symphony Orchestra presents their 90th season opener: *A Blast from the Past!* Free Concert @ Chautauqua Pavilion in Hastings
Artistic Director/Conductor, Dr. Byron Jensen
3:00 p.m., Sunday, September 13th

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
Wednesday, September 16, 2015
9:30am Circle 1
Circle 2
1:15pm Circle 3

Vicki and I are thrilled to tell you that chemo ended September 3rd! We are forever thankful for beautiful flowers delivered and so many wonderful, uplifting cards. Through your prayers, God has walked with us during this challenge of cancer and He will be with us as I recover.

Always In Christ's Love, ~ Jeff & Vicki Howard

Congregational Lives

September 7, 2015

Nina Meyer was the Hastings Middle School Diamond student of the week because she advocates for herself and has a beautiful outlook on life.

Welcome Tarah Sorensen! Tara is a math teacher at Hastings High and seeks to join our family as an associate member.

Welcome to Caitlin Williams, Ph.D. Caitlin is a new Physics Professor at Hastings College. She is a lifelong Presbyterian and played the organ in her home church.

We invite you to share your joys with the church family by emailing Cindy Strasheim, cstrasheim@windstream.net or call the church office [402.462.5147](tel:402.462.5147).

Home Page

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621 North Lincoln Avenue
Hastings, NE

Transitional Pastor
Rev. Charles M. Webster

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: fpc@fpchastings.org or call 402-462-5147.

***Volunteers Needed
for
Home Page Assembly***

***Every Tuesday
at 9am***

***Email or call
the office
to confirm***

Thank you!