



## The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175  
Vol. 19.41 November 1, 2015

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### *Dear Fellow Companions of the Way,*

This Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, we will celebrate All Saints Day, which is a time for the Church to remember all those saints, known and unknown, who have gone before us and have faithfully walked the path of Christ:

*Go, silent friend, your life has found its ending;*

*To dust returns your weary frame.*

*God, who before birth called you into being,*

*Now calls you hence, his accent still the same.*

*Go, silent friend, your life in Christ is buried.*

*For you he lived and died and rose again.*

*Close by his side your promised place is waiting*

*Where, fully known, you shall with God remain.*

*Go, silent friend, forgive us if we grieved you;*

*Safe now in heaven, kindly say our name.*

*Your life has touched us, that is why we mourn you;*

*Our lives without you cannot be the same.*

*Go, silent friend, we do not grudge you glory;*

*Sing, sing with joy deep praises to your Lord.*

*You, who believed that Christ would come back for you,*

*Now celebrate that Jesus keeps his word. (John L. Bell)*

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It is a joy to announce on the cover of this *Home Page* that Oriel Kinley, a saint of this congregation who died earlier this year, gave to First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, a gift of over \$286,000 in her will. The impact of this generous gift goes far beyond the bottom line. This bequest is a tremendous encouragement to all of us at the Church and to those whom we serve. The gift received by the Session is undesignated, and the funds shall be used only by Session direction. The Session has designated \$20,000 for our new video and sound system in the sanctuary, and the balance of \$266,000 has been placed with the Foundation until used by the Session.

Soli Deo Gloria!

**Charlie**

Charles Marshall Webster

## **New Adult Sunday Morning Class Begins This Week**

Are you a history buff? Have you ever wondered how so many different Christian denominations came into being? First Presbyterian's very own Rob Kerr, Social Studies department chair for Hastings High School, will be leading a three-part adult Sunday School series on Christian History, 9:15-10:15, Nov 1, 8, and 15. These classes will provide a great follow-up for those who enjoyed the *Christianity's Family Tree* series. Also, those considering joining the church are encouraged to attend this series. **Please note: this class will be held in Anderson Conference Room.**

## **November 1 Adult Education Opportunities**

1. Christian History class in Anderson Conference Room, taught by Rob Kerr.
2. Communion class for all children grades 1-5 **and their parents**, Sanctuary.

\*There will be no Conversations that Matter class on November 1.

## **Coming Soon.... Conversations that Matter: *What is a Christian Response to Poverty?***

Poverty is a rampant, heart-breaking, complicated issue of our time. While there are no easy answers or solutions, our Christian faith requires an informed, prayerful, and compassionate response. Join us November 8, 9:15-10:15 for this important discussion.

*"Extreme Poverty anywhere is a threat to human security everywhere."*

*--Kofi Annan, 7th Secretary-General of the UN*

## **Committee Spotlight: *Worship, Arts, and Music***

Worship, Arts, and Music (or WAM) is one of four committees that answers directly to Session. Notable work for WAM in 2015 includes hiring interim staff for the positions of Chancel Choir Director, Chancel/Calvin/Westminster Bell Choir Director, and Music Coordinator. Additionally, WAM contributed to the success of the Technology Committee's efforts to upgrade our sanctuary audio/visual system. Very soon we will all see and benefit from this exciting sanctuary upgrade! WAM is supportive of utilizing many forms of arts and music in their dedication to worship enhancement. WAM provided refreshments for the congregation before and after the October 25 worship service. Please thank the members of this hard-working committee for their hospitality on October 25 and for their service to our congregation!! (Members include: Mary Olsen, moderator, Erik Nielsen, Becky Meyer, Linda Hall, Jon Bohlke, and Alice Throckmorton.)

\*\*Committee Spotlight next week will feature the Congregational Life Committee.

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## *Election of Church officers, November 8<sup>th</sup>*

The Session has called for a meeting of the congregation, immediately following the 10:30 worship service on November 8, according to *G-2.0401*, for the purpose of hearing a report of the Church Nominating Committee and the election of ruling elders, deacons, and trustees.

Names of the nominees will be published in the next *Home Page*.

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**Reminder to all Sunday School youth** - please bring your UNICEF boxes to church no later than Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. They may be submitted with the Sunday School offering or at Wednesday Night Live check-in.

**HONEY** is now available for sale in the church office for \$5 a bottle. Proceeds go to assist the Adams/Clay county chapter of *Arc*, which provides programs and support for families and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Every purchase is appreciated!

## *Quotes to Ponder:*

“As long as God keeps waking you up, God is not done with you yet.”

“Love isn’t a state of perfect caring. It is an active verb like struggle. To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly the way he or she is, right here and now.” – Fred Rogers

The “Elimination Diet”: Remove anger, regret, resentment, guilt, blame and worry. Then watch your health and life improve!

*“I simply argue that the cross be raised again at the center of the marketplace as well as on the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified between two candles; but on a cross between two thieves; on the town garbage heap; at a crossroads so cosmopolitan that they had to write his title in Hebrew and in Latin and in Greek...at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble. Because that is where he died. And that is what he died about. And that is where Christians ought to be, and what Christians should be about.” – George MacLeod*

Family and friends are holding a Spaghetti Dinner / Silent Auction in honor of Renee Thomsen at the church on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. More than 140 items have been donated! The family thanks you for your continued prayers and abundance of support!

I just celebrated my first full month of serving in the Dominican Republic! My days have been filled with joys, trials, excitement, worry, and many new adventures. Even when it is difficult, and I am so thankful for my time here, and I look forward to the next two months of my journey. The original purpose of my coming here was to teach music to the seminarians at Iglesia Catedral Episcopal de la Epifanía, so they could learn how to lead their congregations musically in worship when they become priests. Once I got here however, people were more than happy to give me other jobs, which I happily accepted. So every week, I teach two days in the seminary, two days at the preschool attached to the seminary, and I started a music program for

children at a different church in the city. That project is proving to be one of the most challenging things I have ever done, but I am happy to be challenged. I am so glad I can provide a musical outlet for these children a few days a week because they have never had such an opportunity before. These children come from practically nothing, but their spirits are so bright and they are excited to learn everyday. And hopefully by the time I leave, they will not only have a small background in music, but will also walk away with a greater appreciation of music and the capability to make music on their own.

Aside from teaching in a classroom setting everyday, I also give several people from around the city piano and guitar lessons. Word of mouth is a very powerful thing. Once word spread that I was teaching the priest here piano, I got many more calls about teaching others privately. And beginning next week, I will be going to a different church in the city to help with their “praise band.” I am not really sure what that will entail, but the mystery is all part of the adventure I suppose! In my free time, I take Spanish classes and try to study Spanish regularly, I practice piano and guitar, I read a lot, and I find time everyday to reflect on my experiences thus far. I have found myself asking questions that I never really wanted to take time to think about. But I am trying to ask myself questions regarding the purpose of my life, what I am good at, and what makes me truly happy. And through these questions and explorations, I am finding that my faith is strengthening. Not only my faith in God, but also my faith in myself. I feel as though I have grown so much already through this experience, and even though most of the time it is difficult to be here, I am thankful for it.

Everyday, I end up doing something that makes me nervous or that is unfamiliar to me. I never really know what will happen when I go to a new place or agree to do something new. However, I am always happy and satisfied with the outcome. Through various events that have happened in my short time here, I have seen that music has much more power than I ever imagined. It is truly a gift that is to be generously given and shared, and I am so grateful to have a small part in that exchange. Words cannot express how grateful I am for your continued support, and in my remaining months here, I will continue to share my love of God and passion for music with everyone I meet. ~Blessings, Hannah Jensen

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More than 90% of adults in the United States feel that registering as an organ donor is the right thing to do, yet 52% of adults have yet to register. November 13-15, 2015 is **National Donor Sabbath Weekend**, and the perfect time to take action and sign up on the Nebraska Donor Registry at [www.donatelifenebraska.com](http://www.donatelifenebraska.com). It’s fast. It’s easy. It saves lives!

## Congregational Lives

**October 26, 2015**

Meg Shoemaker married Tim Schmidt October 10th in Minneapolis, MN. Meg and Tim live in New York City, where she is HR for NBC/Universal and he is an IT for Altour. Meg graduated from University of MN in the spring with a MA in Human Resources. She is the daughter of Chuck Shoemaker and Lynne Friedewald.

Congratulations and thank you to Frank Medsker who turned 90 October 1 and walked the 5K CROP Walk to celebrate his birthday and gather pledges to be shared for the benefit of others. Frank has faithfully walked every 5K CROP Walk since 1946 and always tried to gather pledges to celebrate his age. This year Frank gathered pledges in the amount of \$985, nearly ¼ of the total crop walk donations. Please share your congratulations with Frank. He is an example to all of "laying down his cloak for others."

The entire congregation is invited to join the FPC entry in the Veterans Parade on November 7. The parade begins at 10:00am and will last about one hour. Meet in FPC Fellowship Hall at 9:15 am for hot beverage and a goody. Be sure to wear layers. If you would like to carry a small flag, contact Cindy Strasheim at 402.469.5357 or [cstrasheim@windstream.net](mailto:cstrasheim@windstream.net). You will be finished in time to attend Bernie Tushaus' memorial at 1:00 at Livingston-Butler-Volland Funeral Home.

**Thank you** Frank Medsker and all members of First Presbyterian Church for your participation and contributions! Your continued support makes the difference in Church World Service! -from Church Women United

Our Kansas City Grandkids are taking Dwayne and me to Chicago for an educational adventure this week. Therefore, I will not be here to gather news. Please help by sending your information via email to me, [cstrasheim@windstream.net](mailto:cstrasheim@windstream.net), or to Tarci Matthews, [tarci@fpchastings.org](mailto:tarci@fpchastings.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

### Upcoming Events:

**November 10<sup>th</sup>** @ 5:30pm, Congregational Life Committee meeting includes finalizing plans for the Nov 15<sup>th</sup> Harvest Dinner. Appreciation Desserts for all committee members will be provided in Fellowship Hall.

**November 14** Harvest Dinner Set-Up (time TBA)

**November 28** Hanging of the Greens (time TBA)

We look forward to seeing everyone there who can help.

### In Memoriam

**Bernard "Bernie" Tushaus,  
01/06/1945 – 10/21/2015**



## HARVEST CELEBRATION MEAL – November 15th

Join us for a delicious, traditional turkey dinner during our time for fellowship with the congregation and offering of thanks for the many blessings we enjoy! This meal is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Tickets may be purchased before/after service Nov 1st & 8th, and during the week in the church office until Friday, Nov 13th. Adults: \$10, Kids 6-12: \$7. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Troop 200 Boy Scouts** will be available the first four Sundays of November to rake leaves at your place of business or residence. Free will donations are accepted. All proceeds will go to Healthy Beginnings to help a couple of young, struggling mothers through the holidays with care packages for mother & child(ren). If you are interested in helping the Scouts with this charitable service project, please contact Tom Kleinjan @ 402-705-0553 or email him at [scouting200hastings@gmail.com](mailto:scouting200hastings@gmail.com). Let's help them spread some cheer this season - your contribution makes the difference!



# Children & Youth News

## First Presbyterian Church, Hastings NE



Kids Against Hunger. Kids Against Hunger. Kids Against Hunger.



The Jr. & Sr. High youth and sponsors at First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, were part of a successful 2-hour Kids Against Hunger packing event on the evening of September 30. Seven different youth groups from our community were involved. In total, the group included 140 packers who packed 21,600 meals. GREAT JOB!

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF boxes and information have been distributed to each child to enable them to collect donations. Donations should be returned to the church by November 8. If you miss a trick-or-treater, donations can be made at the church office. Just make a note that the donation is for UNICEF. More information can be found at <http://www.unicefusa.org/trick-or-treat/about>.



**Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you. Deuteronomy 16:17**



### Reminder: 1st thru 5th Graders and Parents

A special communion class will be held on Sunday, November 1 for all 1st thru 5th Graders. Parents should attend the class with their child. The class will be held during the Sunday School hour 9:15am - 10:15am in the sanctuary with Pastor Charlie.



### Attendance

Date	Teachers	Children/Youth
Wed. 9/23	10	58
Sun. 9/27	11	55
Wed. 9/30	10	61
Sun. 10/4	12	53
Wed. 10/7	13	62
Sun. 10/11	13	59
Wed. 10/14	----	----
Sun. 10/18	11	53
Wed. 10/21	15	62

### Ways you can be involved

Adult volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Jr. High WNL teachers (rotating schedule)
- 1st-5th Grade Sunday School and WNL teacher helpers and subs.

Please contact Stephanie and let her know you can help!

### Dates of Interest

#### November

1--Special communion class for grades 1-5 and parents at 9:15am in the sanctuary

8--Praise/Alleluia Bells play at 8:30am service

15--Cal/West Choir sing at 10:30am service

25--No WNL

29--No Sunday School

29--Praise/Alleluia Bells & Choir sing at 10:30am service

#### December

2--Jr./Sr. High Bowling Party time TBA

# Children & Youth News

## First Presbyterian Church, Hastings NE

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On October 14, almost fifty of our Jr. & Sr. High youth and friends enjoyed a time of fellowship at Hannon Farms, just south of the Hwy 281/I-80 exchange. In addition, four youth and sponsors from our neighboring church, St. Marks, joined us for the fun.

Hayrack rides, a campfire to roast hotdogs and s'mores, and other fun activities were held throughout the evening.

A special THANK YOU to our drivers and sponsors for the evening: Jim Wenburg, Jason Hafer, Tony & Stacey Eddleman, Becky Meyer, Erin Gastmann, Tom & Leah Ratzlaff, Nancy Grams, Neal Hoff, and Susan Meeske!



### Christmas Program

The children and youth (PreK-12th Grade) will be leading worship on December 13 with the Christmas program. The program cast has been announced and practice will start soon.

**Dress Rehearsal: December 12**  
**9:30am to 11:30am**  
**in the Sanctuary**

### Youth Usher Schedule

November 1: Courtney Junker & Lydia Meyer  
November 8: Lauren Canady & Lucy Nielsen  
November 15: Emma Redinger & Erika Rhodes  
November 22: Jennifer Boeve & Maggie Nielsen  
November 29: Arich Fruehling & Josh Brooks

### Acolyte Schedule

November 1: Chudier Duang & Raegan Bradley  
November 8: Luke Brooks & Nathan Kerr  
November 15: Abbie Kerr & Erika Nielsen  
November 22: Eleanor Oliver & Shannon Canady  
November 29: Campbell Schukei & Jack Howe



### Contact Information:

Stephanie Brader, Director of Education for Children & Youth  
stephanie@fpchastings.org or 402-462-5147

*To the Presbyterian Church: The family of Hubert E. Payne would like to thank you for your generous outpouring of love, prayers, kindness, and support. We would like to give a special Thank You to the Presbyterian Women for the luncheon served, to Pastor Charles Webster for the service, and to Nathan Jensen and Ashley Ehrich for the beautiful music.*

–from Darlene, Paul, Steve and the Payne families.

### **ADDICTION AWARENESS**

The General Assembly of the PC(USA) has designated November 2015: “Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse Prevention Month.”

It would be rare to find a person who has not been touched by the pervasive problem of addiction(s). I believe it is important for the church to lift up the pain and sorrow, which accompanies alcoholism and addictions, as well as the opportunity for help and healing, which 12-step groups provide.

While serving as transitional pastor on the West coast, I led three church-based 12-step groups. I see the church as part of the spiritual solution. In this issue of *Home Page*, please find the 12 steps of AA. –C.M. Webster

1. We admitted that we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to return our will and our lives over to the care of God, as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong would promptly admit it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.



**HAPPY 96<sup>TH</sup>  
BIRTHDAY  
VIRGINIA MALOUF!**

NOTE: Breakfast Bible Study is beginning the book, *Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power and How they Can Be Restored* by Marcus J. Borg

### **New Member Classes this Sunday!!!**

Classes for those who want to join or who are considering joining will be held on Sunday, November 1. Participants will attend the adult Sunday School class on Christian History from 9:15-10:15 in the Anderson Conference Room and then will worship together in the sanctuary at 10:30. Following worship, a lunch will be provided and classes will continue until 3pm. Childcare is available upon request. Please call the church office (402-462-5147) to RSVP for the class and/or to request childcare. New members will be formally accepted into the congregation during the November 8 worship service. We'd love to have you join us!!

**Home Page**

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**The Home Page**

A publication of  
First Presbyterian Church  
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: [tarci@fpchastings.org](mailto:tarci@fpchastings.org) or call 402-462-5147.

***Four additional volunteers  
are needed  
this week only  
for Tuesday morning  
assembly of  
2016 stewardship mailer.***

***Please email or phone the  
office to confirm.***

***Thank you.***