

# The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175  
Vol. 21.02 January 15, 2017



## Introducing Reverend Greg Allen-Pickett and the Allen-Pickett Family

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett grew up in Flagstaff, a college town in the mountains of northern Arizona. Greg was an active member of Federated Community Church where he sang in the choir, played handbells, participated in youth group, and was an acolyte and scripture reader. Greg was also an active member of the Boy Scout troop housed at his church and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Growing up in Arizona, Greg had the opportunity to take a road trip to Mexico every other year with his church family. On these trips, he was struck by the poverty he encountered. Those experiences and the questions they generated were formative to his faith journey.

For his undergraduate degree Greg chose Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA; a university with a strong faith tradition whose motto was "Educating for lives of service." Greg graduated *cum laude* from PLU with a double major in Spanish and Political Science. These two degrees worked in tandem in order to understand the systemic issues underlying poverty as well as the human impact of poverty. Greg was also captain of the debate team and vice president of the student government association.

Greg met Jessica in college where they both rowed on the crew team. Jessica majored in secondary education with a focus in English. They were married in 2001 and moved to Ecuador where Greg was a Rotary Scholar, earning a Masters degree from a Catholic university and doing sustainable development projects with the Rotary Foundation while Jessica taught English as a second language.

After returning to the United States, Greg spent three years working in private industry as a manager for Alaska Airlines; four years working as an academic advisor and adjunct professor at the University of Denver; and three years working as the field operations manager for Healing Waters International, a faith-based organization that works on water purification projects in Latin America. Throughout these 10 years Greg also volunteered and worked part-time at Wellshire Presbyterian Church as a youth group leader and Sunday school teacher. During these years, Jessica worked as a high school English teacher, earned her Masters degree, and served as an assistant high school principal. In 2009, Greg and Jessica's daughter, Esther was born in Denver.

In August 2010, the Allen-Pickett family moved to Austin, TX where Greg attended seminary. During seminary, Greg served as a pulpit supply pastor for a church in Caldwell, TX and for a bilingual/multicultural church in Austin. In 2012, Greg was invited to work at the Presbyterian denominational offices in Louisville, KY as the General Manager of Presbyterian World Mission, helping

to support and oversee the mission efforts of the PC(USA). Greg served in that role for 3 ½ years before seeking a local church based pastoral roll and taking a call as the Director of Global Mission at First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta where he oversees all of the church's international mission efforts and serves on the pastoral team for worship leadership, preaching, and pastoral care.

He has developed leadership and management experience in for-profit and non-profit contexts and executive leadership experience at the Presbyterian Church (USA) denominational offices as well as congregational leadership experience in small, medium and large churches. In addition to preaching regularly, Greg has been a speaker at many conferences including the Haiti Connections Conference, Kenya Mission Network, Montreat and the New Wilmington Mission Conference. Greg also has native level fluency in Spanish and is trained in conflict resolution as a mediator. He has led more than 20 domestic and international mission trips and has a particular passion for seeing where God is at work in local communities and inspiring people to get involved in that work.

Jessica stayed home with Esther for the first few years after she was born, but has slowly been working her way back in to the world of education. She has taught preschool and volunteered at church, Esther's school, and at a private middle school for refugee girls. Most recently she has begun subbing and had the opportunity to serve as a special education teacher for our local school district in Decatur, GA. As Esther becomes more settled in school, Jessica continues to ease back into working in education.

Esther is a gregarious, curious and compassionate first-grader who loves science, nature, and swimming. The Allen-Pickett family also includes the goofy, sweet, and perfect-for-their-family-lab-Beagle-mix, Luna. They love spending time together as a family, swimming, playing board games, hiking, camping and appreciating the beauty and joy of God's creation.

Greg brings an executive leader's acumen, a manager's sensibilities and a pastor's heart to his participation in church leadership and God's mission. The Allen-Picketts are very excited about the prospect of joining the community at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings.



*exceptional, the PNC believe that Greg is well prepared and suited for the position of solo pastor/head of staff of FPC. Please see the enclosed introduction of Greg and the Allen-Pickett Family.*

*An informal gathering providing congregation members an opportunity to meet Greg and Jessica will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall at a time to be announced next week. Greg will lead the 10:30 worship service on January 29<sup>th</sup> followed by a congregation meeting with a vote taking place at that time. Please plan to attend these two very important events.*

*It is with great enthusiasm that the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) have unanimously extended a call to Reverend Gregory Allen-Pickett and invited him to candidate as solo pastor/head of staff here at First Presbyterian Church! The PNC first became acquainted with Greg back in September when they received his Pastor Information Form (PIF) as a self-referral. He immediately went to the top of their list and stayed there despite some tough competition. During the past several months, the PNC reviewed approximately 170 PIFs, listened to hours of sermons, and checked out numerous web-sites. Two other candidates were also interviewed during this process. Though those other candidates were*



*“Lillian Baumann’s family is thankful for the communion and visitation ministry through the years by FPC Pastors and deacons. In her final weeks Lillian was proud of her poinsettia "from church", still had weekly cards from Shirley Johnston and visits (plus packages) with Mary Jeanne Cooke and Jeff Howard. Mark Hemje and Deacons as well as church staff were particularly helpful with the funeral and hospitality. Pastor Don Canady was a blessing to our family and shared an easy identity with the rural spirit of the funeral guests. We are indeed appreciative of Mother’s FPC Family. -- Gwen Weber and Joyce Grothen”*

**Deacons delivered** 3 bags with 32 items to Hastings Food Pantry last week.

### **Specialized United Harvest Volunteers Needed Saturday, January 14**

In addition to the regular volunteers, 10-15 extras will be needed for the January 14 mobile food pantry distribution at the Annex. These volunteers will be asked to collect (by walking through the line) and deliver a box of food on behalf of a disabled or elderly individual unable to physically attend. Please call the office to sign up.

### **January Prayer Focus: Healthy Beginnings**

As are all of our communion offering recipients, Healthy Beginnings is in need of not just our financial gifts but also our gifts of prayer. Please pray for the children being served, the nurses who provide care and education, and the parents who are humbly receiving these services in order to give their children a healthier beginning than they would be able to on their own.

### **A Homework Assignment For You**

In preparation for the January 15 Forum on the "Chiapas Four's" trip to Mexico/Guatemala, please consider watching and/or listening to a recording of the 2016 Governor's Lecture in the Humanities, given by Sonia Nazario, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist for the Los Angeles Times. Nazario's lecture addresses issues of immigration, drug addiction, U.S. foreign policy, and more--all through the first-person lens of an embedded journalist who personally travelled the dangerous route taken by many immigrants from Honduras to the U.S.. Nazario's lecture includes photos of locations visited by our "Chiapas Four," and therefore provides an excellent introduction to the January 15 Forum. Find the video of her lecture here: <http://netnebraska.org/interactive-multimedia/other/en-thompson-forum-world-issues-sonia-nazario-immigration-0> (The lecture actually begins 11 minutes and 27 seconds into the recording.)

## UPCOMING FORUMS

*Border to Border: A Mission Team's New Understanding*

***"Whatever you did for the least of these, you did it for me." -Mt 25:40***

January 15: The "Chiapas Four" (Denny Storer, Pam Lay, Jan Ham, and Jeni Howard) will share the life-changing experiences they encountered on their journey to Mexico/Guatemala to learn more about coffee, migration, and faith.

*Polarization in America: An Historian's Perspective*

***"What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun." -Eccles. 1:9***

January 22: Comparing current American polarization to that of previous generations, Michella Marino, Hastings College Assistant Professor of History, will assist us in understanding today's concerns in light of historical patterns.

# UNITED HARVEST



## MOBILE PANTRY

HELPING MEET YOUR FAMILY'S NEEDS

Date: **Saturday, January 14**  
**Saturday, February 25**  
**Saturday, March 25**

Time: 9:30am-11:30am

Location: **Annex Building**  
Between the First United Methodist Church and First  
Presbyterian Church  
**Hastings Ave and 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Hastings, NE**  
Contact: (402)-463-6733  
Instructions: Please bring boxes or bags to carry  
food. No need to pre-qualify.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

A mobile pantry is a traveling food pantry that delivers food directly to families in need for a one-day distribution.

Brought to you by First United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

The mobile pantry is available to you free of charge!

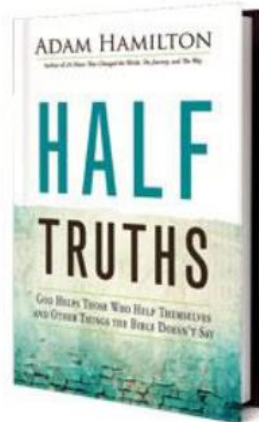


**FOODBANK**  
FOR THE HEARTLAND

## Looking for an interesting and engaging **Bible Study**?

**Then check out the new Heirs Apparent study:**

*Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say.*



Led by Curtis Reimer, this DVD-based study will run on Sunday mornings in the Anderson Conference Room, 9:15-10:15 a.m., from January 15 through February 12.

## "Soup Group" Returns **THIS FRIDAY!**

- All are invited for learning, conversation, good food, and encouraging friendships.
- No books to purchase and no reading with which to keep up.
- Each session will feature a time of fellowship over soup, a brief presentation on a topic related to parenting, and then conclude with discussion on the topic and prayer for the children of our church and our community.
- Child care will be provided at no cost

*\*\*These sessions are particularly well-suited to adults with children, but all adults are invited, and a special invitation is extended to those who have completed the "active parenting" phase of life: please come and share your perspectives and experience as a mentor to those with younger children!*

## **Is studying your Bible one of your New Year's resolutions?**

Here are 12 steps to get you off to a great start!

(from an article in a recent *Horizons* magazine --the official publication of Presbyterian Women)

1. Gather resources: Bible, study Bible, dictionary and/or commentary, marking pencils, pen, and paper.
2. Read the passage in your favorite translation or version.
3. Read the passage again in a second Bible.
4. Read the passage a third time, and write down questions to explore.
5. Identify the type of literature the passage represents.
6. Notice what comes before and after the passage.
7. Read the notes in a study Bible.
8. Look up key words in the Bible dictionary.
9. Read the comments in a Bible commentary.
10. Reflect on what the writer was seeking to communicate.
11. Reflect on the meaning of the passage that applies to faith and life today.
12. Check to see if your questions were answered, and if not, search a little more.

*\*\*If this list feels overwhelming, just do what you can. When we seek to grow in our spiritual life, we are concerned only with faithful progress, not perfection!*



### **Hands Around the World Store**

Regular store hours are 9 a.m.-12 noon on Sunday. Feel free to browse the fine selection of fair trade coffee, chocolate, textiles and jewelry. Items come from nonprofit, fair trade organizations dedicated to lifting disadvantaged artisans and farmers and their families out of poverty. Your purchase make a difference!

### **CONGREGATIONAL LIVES**

**Sunday, Jan 22, 2016**  
**8:30a.m.** Worship  
With Celebrate Band  
**9:15a.m.** Sunday School  
(All Ages Welcome)  
**10:30a.m.** Worship  
Message by Pastor Don Canady

**Need a ride to church on Sundays?** Request a ride by calling the church office at 402-462-5147.

#### **John Quinn is FPC's new Sunday Custodian.**

He has been hired to open the church by 8:15a.m. and lock the doors at 12:30p.m. (If you are here after 12:30p.m., please be mindful to shut off the lights.) John will be responsible to make sure salt is around the walkways and provide janitorial services as needed.

**The radio broadcast** airs Sunday @ 10:30a.m. during service on KICS 1550 AM.

**Sunday's service will be broadcast on Channel 181** Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., and Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

**For those living at Good Samaritan Village, Sunday's service will be broadcast on Channel 3** on Sunday at 12:00 noon and on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

**Zach Spurgeon's mailing address** is: 67 Collins St., Unit B, Dubuque, IA 52001.

**Taking Down the Greens** was completed in less than 2 hours. Thank you, volunteers!

**Reminder: Chancel Choir** will not rehearse on Wednesday, January 18.

**Prayers to Art Langvardt and Theresa Luther** as Art continues his battle with cancer.

### **COMMITTEE NEWS**

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** date has changed from Sunday, January 29th, to Sunday, January 22nd. **Annual Reports** with **2017 Budget** will be reviewed at this time. All members of congregation are encouraged to attend.

**For the 2017 Directory:** Please email or call the office with any corrections to your listing that have not already been noted. Thank you.

#### **Corrections**

**Global Mission meets** this Tuesday, January 10th, will meet in Kessler at 4:15 p.m.

**Memorial Committee meets** once every quarter on Monday at 12:00 in the Kessler room.

GriefShare will begin a 13 week series on Thursday, January 26th, 7:00 p.m., at The Youth & Family Ministry Center, corner of 4th Street and Lexington Avenue in Hastings. Each evening features a video followed by discussion. A guidebook is provided with daily thoughts to ponder and related Bible verses. There is no cost for attending or for the guidebook. Sponsors are First St Paul's Lutheran Church and Livingston Butler Volland Funeral Home & Cremation Center. More information can be found at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org) or by calling [402-463-1329](tel:402-463-1329).

### **GriefShare FAQ**

**Who should attend GriefShare?** GriefShare is for people who have lost a loved one due to death. When someone is ready to attend GriefShare is a very personal matter. Some people are ready within a few weeks of the loss and for others it may be several months or even a couple of years.

**What happens during a typical meeting?** We talk about the past week's pages in the workbook and questions/thoughts that people may have from the previous week's video. After that, we watch the current week's video with discussion following. We end each session with prayer.

**Do I have to talk during the meeting?** No one is forced to talk, but you are encouraged to join in the conversation whenever you feel comfortable.

**Do I have to write in the workbook?** Writing in the booklet is not required as we realize that people have different learning styles. However, an outline for taking notes during the video is included in the booklet. You may find your notes to be very helpful when you refer back to the lessons.

**Is GriefShare counseling?** No. GriefShare is not counseling. Facilitators are present to encourage participation by introducing questions to generate conversation. If you are currently seeing a counselor, we recommend that you continue that. Through GriefShare you can be amazed at the healing that takes place by sharing with people in situations similar to yours.

**What does it cost?** There is no cost for attending or for the booklet. Sponsors are First St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Livingston Butler Volland Funeral Home & Cremation Center.

**Is child care provided?** Childcare can be provided if we are contacted in time to arrange for an attendant in our childcare area. Please give us a few days to arrange care for your child/children, by calling 402-463-1329.

**Where is GriefShare held?** GriefShare usually meets at The Youth & Family Ministry Building of First St. Paul's Lutheran Church, west door.

**When can I begin?** A winter session will begin Thursday, January 26, 2017. However, people not able to begin when a new series starts, can begin at any other Thursday evening.

**What if I am just not sure about such a group being for me?** You are encouraged to visit to "try it on." We understand if you decide that you are not ready for such a group. If you decide that the group experience is not for you at this time, you might consider signing up for the daily e-mails of encouragement from GriefShare. Just go to [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org).

**Home Page**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
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**Address Service Requested**

### **The Home Page**

A publication of  
First Presbyterian Church  
621 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Hastings, NE 68901

**Temporary Supply Pastor:** Don Canady

**Publishing Guidelines:** The *Home Page* is a weekly publication (bi-weekly June & July) 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 by Friday of each week. Submissions may be edited for length and suitability. You may send articles to the church office: tarci@fpchastings.org or call 402-462-5147.

### **Financial Corner** **January 1, 2017**

10:30 Worship Attendance	121
General Fund (2017)	\$4,464.00
Plate Collections	\$98.00
Per capita (2017)	\$110.25
PC (USA) Hunger Fund	\$30.33
Communion-Healthy Beginnings	\$314.00
Food Pantry	\$10.00
Coffee Donations	\$3.00
Pooh Corner	\$500.00
Annex Bldg Use Income	\$432.00

### **Thanks be to God!**

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

-2 Corinthians 9:8