



# The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175  
Vol. 19.19 May 10, 2015

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*Dear Fellow Companions of the Way,*

“I am about to do a new thing, do you not perceive it?” says the Lord.” *Isaiah 43:19*. God is doing and will continue to do new things in our midst, in Hastings and around the world. When we are committed to a Risen Lord and Savior we can see lives changed in the name of and by the power of God in Jesus Christ. And we do this through the Church, “the body of Christ” that is God’s team on earth.

Having been blessed with the opportunity to play on the freshman basketball team at Duke and to practice with the varsity for four years (including two Final Four teams), I learned a lot about teamwork and making adjustments (half-time locker room and on the court) that I have long valued. If sports are not your thing, please forgive...I’ll get beyond sports here in a minute, please be patient.

Recently, I found some basketball statistics that caught my attention. Twenty years ago, professional basketball teams were making 48 percent of their shots. Statistics from the present NBA season show that teams are making less than 42 percent. What accounts for the drop? The statistics also show that teams are passing the ball fewer times per possession than they did twenty years ago. Passing the ball to a player who then makes a basket is called an “assist.” Twenty years ago, the number of assists per game was 51.2. Now the number is down to 40.6.

The Church is where “two or three are gathered” in Christ’s name, and the Church plays its best when it works together, shares the ball and listens to the coach, the teachings of the Risen Lord.

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A very special welcome to **Michael Hull**, who has accepted our offer to lead us in music over the next few months. I pray that you will enjoy Michael’s musical talent and presence in our midst until he leaves for LSU in August.

**Traci Boeve** was elected to an unexpired one year term on session this past Sunday. I welcome her leadership and I hope you will, too.

Sunday’s **Cottage Conversations** were very positive from what I have heard. Thank you to all the leaders and participants!

The greatest challenge before First Presbyterian Church (and so many American churches) is not losing sight of the Triune God. God is always calling for our attention. Are we open to the transforming presence of the Risen Christ, whose very first word to us in the oldest gospel was “repent,” which means “turn around.” Jesus is “the way and the truth and the life.” Are we listening to him or just going our own way? The future of First Presbyterian Church rests upon our response.

Soli Deo Gloria!  
**Charlie**  
Charles Marshall Webster

# **TRANSITIONAL NOTES, No. 11**

## **Creating Vital Congregations**

The “thriving church” model described by Thomas Bandy contrasts with the “traditional church.”

In the traditional church, people are:

**Initiated  
Enrolled  
Informed  
Supervised  
Kept**

In the thriving church, people are

**Changed  
Gifted  
Called  
Equipped  
Sent**

## **Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches**

In his book *Natural Church Development*, Christian A. Schwarz discussed the findings of his study of 1,000 Protestant congregations in 32 countries. Schwarz identified eight quality characteristics found together in healthy congregations:

### **1. Empowering Leadership**

“Rather than handling the bulk of church responsibilities on their own, they invest the majority of their time in discipleship, delegation and multiplication.”

### **2. Gift-Oriented Leadership**

“When Christians serve in their area of giftedness, they generally function less in their own strength and more in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

### **3. Passionate Spirituality**

“The life of faith as a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ.”

### **4. Functional Structures**

“Churches are liberated from being tradition-bound.”

### **5. Inspiring Worship Services**

### **6. Holistic Small Groups**

### **7. Need-Oriented Evangelism**

### **8. Loving Relationships**

“Congregations are characterized by lots of hospitality and laughter.”

## NEWS OF MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Recently hospitalized:  
Mary Northrop – Omaha

Out of Hastings:  
Jeff Howard - Omaha

Back Home:  
Shannon Welton - Home  
Bernie Tushaus – Home

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## Wednesday Night Live

May 6 Birthdays

May 13 Last night – no classes Cookout at Lib's Park begins @ 6:00.  
We'll see you there!

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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**

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## **Thank You**

Thank you to Kathy Reimer for coordinating the Senior recognition breakfast, along with Melissa Karloff, Jessica Meeske, and Fran Landrum for their great work. Further thanks go to the students who helped serve and clean.

Thank you to all who take an active interest in the annual Go/Serve Mission trip. This year's letter had a mistake included. The fourth paragraph should begin: "This year's trip will cost \$10,877 and we still need to raise \$5,642.00 to fully fund the trip."



## 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: bewwhite89@yahoo.com)

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**REMINDER:** New Contact for *Prayer Chain* (temporarily)

Please contact Margaret Koontz @ 402-463-2518 for any of your prayer chain needs.

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### LAST MINUTE NEED FOR MOM???

Don't forget that *Gift Certificates* are available at the Hands Across the World Store! Hours on Sunday will be 9:00 to noon.

Mother's Day is on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of May.



**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](http://www.RelayForLife.org)**.

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**American  
Red Cross**

A BIG thanks to our donors and volunteers who made the April 28<sup>th</sup> blood drive a success! We collected 26 units of blood which exceeded our goal! Volunteers included: Lois Hahne, Mary Fisk, Roger and Cheryl Schukei, Margaret Koontz and Marnie Soderquist. Donors included: Kathy Duval, Rogene Wenburg, Troy Legg, Lynne Friedewald, Jon Martin, Vernon Groves, Harold Korb, Carol Wheeler, Phil Odom, Cheryl Schukei, Rich McKenzie, Jane Marsh, Brent Brooks, Vera Zabloudil, Jim Wenburg, Gary Brooks, Scott Kvals, Marnie Soderquist, Linda Timmerman, Monte Malouf, Mark Hall, Thomas Hamberger, Wesley McIntosh, Nancy Grams, Rhonda Berns, Katie Kingsley, Chuck Hastings and Chelsea Nealon.

Our next blood drive will be on Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> from noon to 6:00p.m.. If you are interested in volunteering or donating blood, please contact Erica Brooks at 402-469-9285 or at [ericalynn128@gmail.com](mailto:ericalynn128@gmail.com)

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**NOTICE**

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

We are inviting all members of the congregation to sign-up via 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](http://FPCHASTINGS.ORG) on the web and under the heading of "Newsletters" and the section of Home Page, you can sign up directly. Call the office if you need any assistance in completing this.

The **Memorial and Gift Committee** would like to draw to your attention the seven new doors (front and north doors) which enhance the appearance of our church. We were pleased to work with the Trustees to provide a significant amount toward the doors. This was provided by memorials in the names of:

*Hal Lainson*

*Silas and Ruth Kessler*

*Toni Mays*

*Doris Morhart*

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The *Hastings Area Church Women United* selected **Susie Graham** as **Valiant Woman for 2015**. Susie has been active in our church and in many ecumenical enterprises. She has been Moderator of Presbyterian Women, Chair of her circle, an usher, and member of the Christian Education committee. She has taught WNL preschool and is a member of the walking group. She serves on the Leadership Council of Church Women United as Celebrations Chair. She is a team captain for Relay for Life, was instrumental in reviving the CROP Walk, and is directly involved on planning the next one in October. She is a child advocate for CASA, and as a master gardener, assists with the landscaping at the Adams County Courthouse.

A second honoree is **Leah Ratzlaff**, who is our church's **Young Church Woman of the year**. She and her husband Tom are Senior High Sponsors. As a member of *MOPS* (Mothers of Preschoolers) she spearheaded the Soles for Hope project which brought women from several churches to our church to cut out pieces of denim to be sewn into shoes for the children of Uganda. Without shoes, these children are at risk for a disease caused by a worm which invades through the sole of the foot.

Both of these women are a blessing to our church and an example of the "servant leadership" to which we all are called.

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Presbyterian Women  
May 2015

Wednesday, May 6

11:15 Coordinating Team Meeting

11:45 Luncheon

Program:

*Sharing the History of Mary Lanning Hospital*

Dr. Harry Salyards, Mary Plock

Wednesday, May 20

9:30 Circle 1 – Eleanor Jorgenson

Circle 2 – Kathleen Nelson -----meet in the library

1:15 Circle 3 – Fellowship Hall

**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.