

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 19.29 August 2 – 9, 2015

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for yesterday's reception. Your expressions of thanks meant a lot to my family and me. The giant card was great, the lovely flowers, a sack lunch for four or more, a thoughtful honorarium, and so many cards. Many of you turned out and spoke with Fran, Lee, Thomas and me. Your caring words, warm handshakes, and loving hugs lifted our spirits. Most of all I'll remember your applause for a long time.

My ministry with First Presbyterian has been a rich and challenging experience. It has strengthened my call and expanded my skills as pastor. Leading traditional and Celebrate worship, coordinating Wednesday Night Live, teaching Middle School fellowship and High School Sunday School, teaching adult bible study, sharing in High School fellowship, leading two Go & Serve trips, numerous visits, special worship of remembrance and marriage, counseling, encouragement, committee meetings and so many other experiences helped us get to know each other and grow together in the Holy Spirit.

May I extend special thank you to Rev. Bill for inviting me in, the session for its strong support, Rev. Charlie for new lessons in ministry, the Christian Education Committee for their encouragement, the Go and Serve Team, Tarci Matthews and so many others.

My two year contract as Interim Associate is now complete. However, my eight weeks filling in as senior pastor, sitting in for Rev. Bill while he went to Synod School, and other invitations to serve are all part of my ministry with you at First Presbyterian. I hope we find a way so serve together again.

Blessings to you in what follows and may we be lucky enough to serve together again.

Peace,

Rev. Berke Landrum

Dear Fellow Companions of the Way,

One thing I like about the cartoon on the right from *The New Yorker* is that it raises the question about personal religious faith. Do you feel that God might call you by name and speak to you today? Do you realize that the Lord does have a word for you, not only of judgment, but of encouragement and grace?

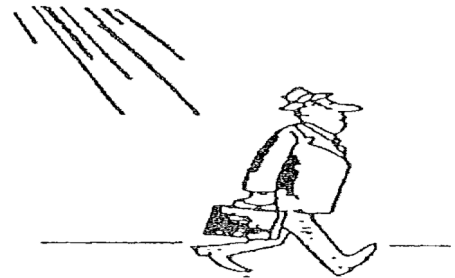
"For surely, I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

How real is Jesus Christ to you? How aware are you of the presence of God in your world? Has your spirit responded to the Holy Spirit in your life? Do you know that, in spite of your failures and faults, God wants to guide you in becoming the kind of person you want to be and God wants you to become?

Let us never lose sight that God planted First Presbyterian Church to introduce people to Jesus Christ. That is why I ask, "How personal is your faith?"

When all is said and done and our days are spent and gone, the one question that shall linger in our minds and the one issue that I place before you is this:

"I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him." (2 Timothy 1:12)



"Michael J. Thosley"



"This is the Lord speaking"



"Have a nice day"

Soli Deo Gloria!

Charlie

Charles Marshall Webster

SERMON SERIES (THE DAVID CHRONICLES) SUMMER 2015

June 14	<i>1 Samuel 15:34-16:13</i>	The Lord Looks on the Heart
July 12	<i>1 Samuel 17:32-49</i>	A Stone and a Prayer
July 19	<i>2 Samuel 7:1-14a</i>	Who Needs a House?
July 26	<i>2 Samuel 11:1-15</i>	Dumbledore's Axiom
August 2	<i>2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a</i>	You are the Man!
August 9	<i>2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33</i>	O Absalom, My Son, My Son!
August 16	<i>1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14</i>	Wisdom from on High



In Memoriam

Alice Locke November 6, 1914 - July 24, 2015

Dorothy Shiffler, October 15, 1929 - July 24, 2015



Enthusiasm is emerging as First Presbyterian Church moves forward. On July 23rd, the session approved the hiring of three new staff members: **Stephanie Brader** as Director of Children and Youth Ministries, **Kili Wenburg** as Director of Adult Education and Spiritual Formation and Care, and **Carlos Santos** as Custodian. Their photos with biographies will be in the next *Home Page*, August 16th edition.

On July 26th the congregation elected the Pastor Nominating Committee. PNC members include: Jessica Bauer, Dale Behrens, Jeni Howard, Richard Johnson, Chris Junker, Rob Kerr, Pam Lay and William Oliver.

Kick-off Sunday

August 23, 2015

All Aboard



9:10 am
Sunday School
Gather in Memorial Room

10:30 am
Worship Service

Wednesday Night
Live

~~~~~

begins  
August 26th

## Transitional Notes, No. 13

### **How to Help the Pastor Nominating Committee**

When a church is searching for a new Pastor, many people ask how they can help the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). There are several things you can do:

Most important is prayer. Pray for the church, its leadership, its mission, and its future. Pray for the PNC, that the Holy Spirit will guide their work and help them discern God's call for the church.

Trust the PNC with this vital task of discernment, and then let them do their work without advice or questions, however well intended. Trust them to do their task and to let you know what you need to know, when you need to know it. Encourage members of the PNC by understanding when they are not available for other things, and tell them that you appreciate what they are doing for the church.

You will quite naturally be curious about the progress of the PNC. However, by PC (USA) and Presbytery policy, the work of the PNC is completely confidential, so no individual can answer questions or provide any information about the work of the PNC to anyone, including church staff and the families of PNC members. Any communication comes formally, from the whole PNC.

The first task of the PNC will be to write the Ministry Information Form (MIF). By gathering the needed information, and writing the document together, the PNC becomes a team, working together for the future of the church. This is a vital part of their work, and it lays the groundwork for the discernment process that is the heart of their task. The PNC will seek to express the vision of the church, as they understand it, making full use of available resources.

Once the MIF is written and approved by the Session and the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM), the PNC will begin to receive the Personal Information Forms (PIF) of potential candidates. They will go through a process of discernment, interviewing their top choices. All of this will be confidential in order to protect candidates, the committee, and the church.

If you know of a pastor you would like to suggest for the committee's consideration, please give that information to the chair of the PNC (the chair's name will be available from the church office once a chair is elected). It is not appropriate to discuss potential candidates with individual members of the PNC.

Be patient with the process. Careful discernment takes time, and the Holy Spirit is not influenced by our impatience. The search will take as long as it takes to find the pastor God is calling to First Presbyterian Church, Hastings. A call involves mutual discernment: God calls the pastor to the church and the church to the pastor. God is faithful; trust that God will call the right pastor and that the PNC will discern the person God is calling to the church.

Once the call is agreed upon by the PNC, the candidate and Presbytery's COM, a congregational meeting will be called where the results of the search will be announced. The PNC will report their reasons for selecting the candidate, and the congregation will be asked to call their new pastor. One final task will then remain for the church: to welcome the new pastor and to work him or her in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

- C.M.W.

### **Congregational Lives August 2**

SARAH Wolf, recent HC graduate and newly employed teacher in Hastings Public Schools, has received the 2015 Omicron Delta Kappa Foundation Scholarship for graduate study. She is 1 of 22 students nationwide to receive this honor.

38 Japanese youth and adults visited Hastings for the 20<sup>th</sup> celebration of the City Sister relationship between Hastings and Ozu, Japan. FPC members involved in this historic celebration of home-stays and community events were Denny and Carole Storer, Sharon and John Brooks, Paul and Lynnette Krieger, Brett and Irina Belikova Erickson, Kiera and Ian. Twenty years ago Phil and Dana Odom, then mayor and first lady of Hastings, led a twenty person delegation to sign the historic sister city document. Denny and Carole Storer and Cindy and Dwayne Strasheim were Hastings College representatives who accompanied the group. Matt Seivert, a recent graduate of Hastings College and stellar member of the FPC music program will assume the role of Coordinator of International Programs for the City of Ozu, Japan. Matt succeeds Blake Holen, who is also alumni of Hastings College and the FPC music program. Blake is headed to Chicago to find a job so he can attend the Chicago School of Performing Arts. If you are in Chicago, check the playbills for Blake's name!

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

### **COME JOIN US IN THE LIBRARY!**

Our library is a great place to check out! Sue Medsker-Nedderman, our Church Librarian, has ordered new books for the enjoyment of guests and members alike, including:

*A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching, Genesis and Exodus Interpretations; Christ's Act in the Church; Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life; and Will Our Children Have Faith?*

Everyone is welcome! we hope to see you there!

#### **Communion Serving Schedule**

##### **August 2, 2015 – Team 1**

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Sharon Brooks   | Linda Cooke |
| Matt Fong       | Kim Hermann |
| Chris Junker    | Al Meyer    |
| Erik Nielsen    | Tim Redline |
| Cindy Strasheim |             |

#### **August Communion Offering**

##### **Adults in Mission Fund**

*This Sunday's communion offering will be for Adults in Mission, for disaster and similar emergency relief as needed*

On behalf of Nathanael and Janeen, Janey and me, we wish to thank all the dear people at First Presbyterian Church for your beautiful cards, flowers, memorials, and acts of kindness during this difficult time for our family. A special thanks to Pastor Charles Webster and Pastor Berke Landrum for their calls and prayers. There aren't sufficient words to tell you what comfort and strength have come to us from all the members of our wonderful congregation. Because of your ministering to us each day has gotten better. – Rev. Bill Nottage-Tacey

#### **Thank You Corner**

**40% of the Pentecost** collected May 24<sup>th</sup> thru June or \$264 has been designated to the Pastor Discretionary Fund.

\$390 has been collected to date for SIDS Foundation in memory of Liam Green Tacey.

**Thank you** for the donations, glory be to God!

## Home Page

First Presbyterian Church  
621 North Lincoln Avenue  
Hastings, NE 68901  
402-462-5147, fax 402-462-6818  
email: [fpc@fpchastings.org](mailto:fpc@fpchastings.org)  
website: [www.fpchastings.org](http://www.fpchastings.org)

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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: [fpc@fpchastings.org](mailto:fpc@fpchastings.org) or call 402-462-5147.

### ***Volunteers Needed:***

*Home Page Assembly  
Tuesday, August 11*

*~and~*

*Worship Service Greeter(s)  
Sunday, August 23*

*Please call or email  
the office to confirm*

*Thank you!*