



# The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175  
Vol. 19.38 October 11, 2015

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## *Dear Fellow Companions of the Way,*

Where do you find your deepest feelings of contentment? If someone asked you, “How does one become content?” what would you say? I have found the word “contentment” is mentioned seven times in Holy Scripture and six times have to do with money. The Apostle Paul wrote, “Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (*Philippians 4:11-13*)

As Paul’s example shows, we can be content regardless of how much “stuff” we have. But how do we connect our contentment to life’s circumstances? Paul had a faith-based perspective: “Since I know it is all for Christ’s good, I am quite content with my weakness and with insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities.” (*2 Corinthians 12:10*) Paul’s perspective recognizes the ultimate reason for living is Christ. It is an uncomplicated way to live when everything comes back to living for Christ.

When we depend on favorable circumstances for our contentment, our perspective constantly changes and we may become unhappy when things do not go our way. When we depend on Jesus Christ for our contentment, we are secure because his perspective is always consistent. (*Hebrews 13:8*) You can rely on God to provide contentment. That is the model to which Paul points. As you have been given an inner spirit of transformation, you are able to commit to God the things you cannot do for yourself. The Holy Spirit gives you a burning desire to be a faithful steward of the gifts and possessions entrusted to you. Biblical contentment is an inner peace that accepts the sovereignty of God over all life, over your life.

Paul makes more observations about contentment. In *1 Timothy 6:8*, he suggests a bare-bones orientation: “And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.” Paul goes on to counsel Timothy about what to say to people who base their contentedness on their wealth: “Tell those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which will soon be gone.” (*1 Timothy 6:17*) Paul continues in that verse to focus back on an eternal source of contentment: “their trust should be in the living God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.”

May I suggest a help to find continued contentment? When you first awake and just before you go to sleep, meditate on *1 Chronicles 29:11-12*. The passage reads:

“Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.”

Soli Deo Gloria!

*Charlie*

Charles Marshall Webster

**A PC(USA) World Mission Trip  
to Israel-Palestine  
(Enthusiastically endorsed by Pastor Charlie)  
January 12-22, 2016**

**Cost: \$2150 plus airfare and insurance**

**Optional extension to the Galilee for 2 nights, cost TBD**

**Application deadline: December 1, 2015**

**For information or application, contact Kate ([kate.taber@pcusa.org](mailto:kate.taber@pcusa.org))**

**Why Travel to the Holy Land with World Mission?**

*Too many people come only to see the holy sites, seeking the historical Jesus instead of the Christ who lives in the communities that worship, live, celebrate, and suffer in the Holy Land today.*

With World Mission, you will:

- see the land of the Bible, enriching your understanding of scripture
- join** in the ongoing mission partnerships of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
- be inspired** by the commitment of Israelis and Palestinians working for peace
- offer** hope and solidarity to the local Christian community
- witness** and learn about the Israeli military occupation firsthand
- reflect** as a group on how you and your community can engage in just peacemaking in Israel-Palestine
- travel responsibly**, investing in the Palestinian economy

***Conversations that Matter, October 11 & 18: Love and Marriage***

Parlor, 9:15-10:15  
Our LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning) neighbors, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, selves have long wondered how they fit into society and church. For decades now, debate has swirled over whether to include or exclude these individuals from institutions ranging from marriage to ministry to parenthood. People of faith and prayer have sometimes taken one side, sometimes another, and sometimes have been too uncertain to take a stance either way. Let's look again at this important topic *together*.

**October 11:** Karen Doerr will share information about the church's stance on these issues, and Lanae Hall will share personal experience.

**Monday, October 12:** Viewing and discussion of the film *For the Bible Tells Me So* in Anderson Conference Room at 7 p.m.

**October 18:** Dan Deffenbaugh, religion professor, will address biblical perspectives on homosexuality and same-sex marriage.

**Did you know?**

Spiritual direction sessions with Kili Wenburg are available by appointment at no cost to church members. These 45-minute sessions provide one-on-one support for spiritual growth and can be helpful for individuals at any point in the spiritual journey.

**OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH**

ALTHOUGH PASTORS AND THEIR FAMILIES SHOULD BE APPRECIATED ALL DAYS AND MONTHS OF THE YEAR, OCTOBER IS TRADITIONALLY A TIME WE SAY THANKS. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU TOLD YOUR PASTOR YOU WERE PRAYING FOR HIM/HER? WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU EXPRESSED THANKS FOR YOUR PASTORS?

**A very generous \$50,000  
from an anonymous donor  
was received last week!  
This is to be used towards  
our new sound system, now  
in progress to be installed!  
Glory Be to God!**

**Congregational Lives**

**October 5, 2015**

Becky Spurgeon joined us again last week for Wednesday Night Live and reports to be doing well with her beautiful children. She mentioned Zach is a little homesick and would be most happy to receive any letters and/or packages that members would care to send him:

**SGT Spurgeon, Zachary  
Box 528,  
APO, AE 09898**

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).

The Thomsen family would like to thank all of you for keeping Renee Thomsen in your prayers the past few months. We are happy to say Renee returned home last week from M. D Anderson in Houston. She will continue her chemotherapy treatments here in Nebraska the next few months.

Family and friends are holding a Spaghetti/Silent Auction in her honor here at the church on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. If you have an item you care to donate you can contact me or leave at the church by October 26<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

**Financial Corner**  
\$212.85 was collected in August and September for PCUSA Hunger Fund and \$470.00 was collected last month for *The Zone*. Payments will be remitted this week.  
**Glory Be to God!**

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

***A Big Thank You  
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