

**Donald W Simpson**

**From:** Barb [barb@geneseofpc.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 31, 2013 10:00 AM  
**To:** dsimpson@geneseo.net  
**Subject:** August Newsletter



# First Presbyterian Church

*The Stone Church with a Warm Heart*

## The Grapevine

Welcome to the 31st edition of our electronic Grapevine. In 2011 we started using our electronic newsletter, and we invite and welcome your feedback.

**From  
Pastor  
Dave's  
Desk**



### Statement of Pastoral Ethics

When a pastor leaves a charge there are bonds of affection between the minister and members of the church that continue to be cherished. Relations of friendship continue, but the pastoral relationship does not. In order to spare ministers and church members from embarrassment, and to encourage the new pastoral relationship that will be established, the presbytery directs that the church be reminded of these requirements:

When any minister resigns from a pastorate or retires from service, or becomes a pastor emeritus, the minister should cease to perform such functions as a pastor at funerals, baptisms, and weddings, unless invited to

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 First Presbyterian Church  
 Geneseo, Illinois 61254

### August Worship

9:30 a.m.

### After Church Coffee following worship

We're now on the web at

### Please be praying for

Dennis Carton, Shane  
 Haas, Janet  
 Borkgren, Sandy  
 Haas,  
 Archie Cullen, Carol  
 (Mrs. R.C.) Johnson,  
 Phyllis Keag, Virginia  
 Nelson, Julie Rash-  
 Ulven  
 Nathan Simpson,  
 Barb Asay

Additional prayers go  
 out to Pastor Dave  
 and Sharon as Pastor  
 Dave begins his new  
 spiritual journey and  
 to Barb Palmer as she  
 begins her retirement

officiate in such capacity by the pastor or by the moderator of vacant churches. (G.A. Min. 1948, p. 119, Status of Retired Ministers)

The spirit of this action applies to all ministers of the church, whether retired or not, and whether they have ever served as pastors of particular churches (G.A. Min. 1959, p.208, Overture 39).

In short, church members should not request a former pastor to perform pastoral duties. If requested, the pastor should tactfully decline.

#### FINAL WORDS

In any church, there are always those members who have special bonds with the pastor, sometimes through friendship, sometimes because the pastor was there when a loved one died, or any number of reasons. One temptation churches have when a pastor leaves is to ask that pastor to come back for significant events - weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. Our denomination has a very clear ethics policy that everyone serving a church is expected to abide by. Included in this is the understanding that I will not be coming back to do weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc., unless there are extenuating circumstances, and even then, ONLY upon the expressed invitation of the pastor or moderator of session. This is because when former pastors return for this significant events, they hinder the ability of the current pastor to effectively be the pastor of the congregation. All of which means, if you ask and I say no, don't take it personally! I still love you, I just can't marry you.

Thank you for your ministry with and to me and my family.

I wish you all the best for the future, and may God go with you.

Pastor Dave

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#### MUSICAL NOTES

For the time being Chancel Choir will be practicing on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. starting on August 29th. Deb Swift has graciously agreed to play the piano for choir practice three Thursday nights a month. Hopefully, we will have an organist/pianist in place permanently in the near future.

Mark your calendars, THURSDAY AT 7:00 p.m. is

#### MILITARY PRAYERS

Pvt. Chase Shannon, US Army, grandson of Don Griffith has returned home from Afghanistan  
Justin Knox, Kristin Esche's brother deployed to Bahrain

#### OUR SYMPATHIES

Our sympathies and prayers go out to the Borkgren family on the passing of Irwin on Monday, July 22nd. Please keep Janet, Steve, John & Carol and their families in your thoughts and prayers. Funeral services were held Friday evening July 26th with Pastor Dave officiating. Private inurnment services were held on Saturday July 27th at Oakwood Cemetary in Geneseo.



#### NO PW ACTIVITIES IN AUGUST

#### Birthdays AUGUST

- 1 Gail Andrews
- 3 Shirley Johnson
- 4 Spring Simpson

Chancel Choir practice! See you on the 29th of August!  
George

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FROM THE  
**Geneseo Food Pantry**



**FOOD NEEDS FOR THIS**

**MONTH:** pancake mix, syrup, spaghetti, frosting, elbow macaroni, cereal, pudding, jello, oatmeal, peanut butter, jiffy cake mixes, ramen noodles, ketchup, applesauce, macaroni and cheese, pork and beans ... we are always in need of sugar free items (snacks and baking items) for a diabetic clients and those on special diets

**NON FOOD NEEDS:** toilet paper, bar soap, dish soap, sunscreen and diapers in sizes 3, 4, and 5.

*Drop boxes at the church for Food Pantry donations are located by the bulletin stand and in the coat room off the front entrance. Donations are always appreciated and especially encouraged on the third Sunday of the month, which is designated Food Pantry Sunday.*

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**News and Notes**

The Session encourages all of us to to not take a vacation from giving during the summer. Please continue to meet your financial commitment in a timely manner.

As a reminder, if you haven't made your per capita payment of \$28.00 per member, we would appreciate receiving that as well.

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**Kid's Kingdom /Intentional Faith Development  
VBS Wrap-Up**

A wonderful VBS session has concluded for another year. Between 40 and 45 young people enjoyed fellowship and learning from July 8th through the 12th as everyone came to the "Everywhere Fun Fair". Once again we partnered with First Congregational, who hosted daily activities while First Presbyterian hosted the Sunday morning worship service presented by the young fair attendees. This year, the kids learned that God welcomes everyone, as they understood how to love and

- 6 Nancy Salter
- 6 Al Ward
- 7 Jacci Albrecht
- 9 Zak Stephens
- 9 Bill Fleming
- 9 Kristin Esche
- 12 Lucille Pease
- 14 Gene Hartsock
- 16 Doug Curran
- 16 Scott Lambin
- 20 Dr. Drew VanKerrebroeck
- 21 Sharon Esche
- 24 Cathy Hadley
- 26 Kyle Colgan
- 26 Justin Ogilvie
- 28 Maelyn Gentry
- 31 Jon Gentry

**Anniversaries**

**AUGUST**

- 13 Gary & Cathie Bell
- 14 Cody & Jane VanFleet
- 16 Clark & Karen Brookens
- 23 John & Sherry Brophy
- 25 Jared & Robin Gravert
- 31 John & Nancy Salter

**Grapevine Deadline**

This may be the last Grapevine for a while, until and interim pastor and administrative assistant are in place. I would encourage you to continue leaving Grapevine information in the church office, and hopefully, it will be included in a future

serve God and being a neighbor to the world.

Our thanks goes out to Jill Madden from First Congregational who coordinated this year's VBS, along with Melanie Curran and Olivia Melton from First Presbyterian. Additional thanks goes out to our adult volunteers who lead classes, crafts, served snacks and lent a hand where needed.

The generosity of First Presbyterian ensured that all attendees had t-shirts and necessary supplies for the week. Funds from your generous contributions and IFD fundraisers will be used to defray our share of VBS expenses for this year. The loose offering from Sunday, July 14th in the amount of \$245.22 will be combined with the weekly offering and donated to Heifer International, with the hope of raising enough to purchase a cow for an under privileged area in the world.

Once again, thanks to everyone for providing the opportunity for this valuable learning experience for our young people.

#### AN ADDITIONAL VBS NOTE

This was Jill Madden's last year coordinating VBS for First Congregational and First Presbyterian. We so appreciate her extreme dedication and leadership the past several years. From early spring planning to the Sunday worship service to final cleanup and accounting, Jill was always organized, cheerful and enthusiastic to lead the kids in a fun-filled, spiritual week. Jill will be missed and we wish her only the best in the future.

Jill and her husband Mike have purchased a home in the Bloomington area and will move to be closer to their daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter.

#### FISHING OUTING

This year's Father/Son/Friend Fishing Outing will be on Sunday, August 15th. We will meet at the Izaak Walton League at 3:00 p.m. and then for a potluck supper for families at the Curran house around 5 p.m. In case of rain, we will have a game day and potluck in the church basement. Currans will supply pulled pork, table service, lemonade and water. Please RSVP to Melanie at 944-5772. Let's hope for another sunny day this year!

#### Warm Heart Work Day Thanks

Our thanks go out to John & Sherry Brophy, Melanie Curran, Scott, Julie, Ethan & Alex Durian, Steve Durian, Sharon Esche, Cathy Hadley, Louise Rash, Don & Beth Simpson who helped with Warm Heart Work Day on

Grapevine.

It has been a pleasure serving as editor, and I hope that you have benefitted from receiving this newsletter each month. If you have thoughts or suggestions to make this publication better and more useful, I am sure the new staff would like hearing your suggestions.

I would like to thank all of you for contributing items that you felt were timely, or a good fill-in. Often a short item was needed to take up the blank space! Thanks so much!

#### AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 4  
Worship - 9:30 a.m.  
Led by Elder Murray Pople  
August 11

Worship - 9:30 a.m.  
Led by Barb Asay  
August 18  
Worship 9:30 a.m.  
Led by Joel-Jackle Hugh  
August 25  
Worship - 9:30 a.m.  
Led by Rev. Becky

Sunday, July 21st. Lots of tasks were completed! Your time and efforts are appreciated.

IN CLOSING

Just a reminder, as of August 1st, there will be NO staff in the office on a regular basis until an interim minister and administrative assistant are in place. Don and Beth Simpson will be in-and-out of the office to complete as needed paperwork. Therefore, the church will not be unlocked.

Thank you for your patience during this transitional time. Hopefully, staff will be in place come September.

Nystrom  
COMMUNION  
SUNDAY

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G

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GRAPEVINE PAPER  
COPIES ...

For those of you wishing to receive more information, paper copies of the monthly Grapevine are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to take a copy. Due to new, stricter postal regulations, no bulk

mailing is being made,  
and a limited number  
of copies are being  
mailed.

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
SUMMER FARMER'S  
MARKET

Starting Sunday, July  
14th, we will have a  
Summer Farmer's  
Market. Everyone is  
encouraged to bring  
plants and produce  
that you would like to  
share. Take  
something home for a  
contribution to our  
mission work. We'll  
provide space in the  
dining room each  
Sunday morning  
through the summer /  
early fall. There will  
be a container for  
your donations.

Risk-Taking Mission  
Service Group



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