

# *February Grapevine*



## **Ephesians 4:2**

2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

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### Prayers of the People



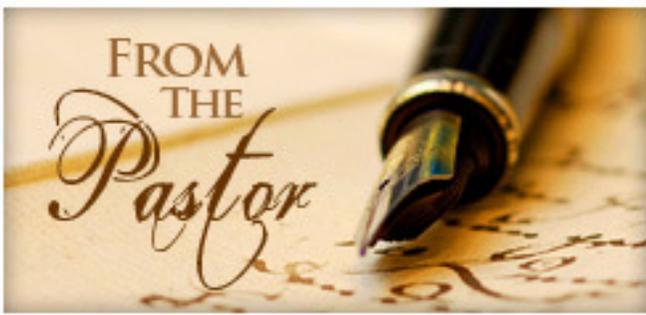
Shane Haas, Janet Borkgren, Sandy Haas, Carol (Mrs. R.C.) Johnson, Phyllis Keag, Pat Williams, Archie Cullen, Gen Atwell, Betty Miller, Helen Ellsberry, Dennis Carton, Laurreta Greene, & Sammy Hodgett

### Thank You



Thank you to our friends of the church for cards, calls and your wishes and prayers. It is special to be remembered.

Joe & Nellie Wright



## *From Pastor Doty*

We like to call the Presbyterian Church (USA) a “connectional church.” Our congregations are not isolated, but are connected through a system of governing bodies which provide a wider arena for mission and which help our congregations in their own work. We are connected with 100 other congregations in central Illinois through Great Rivers Presbytery. Our presbytery joins with seven others in Illinois and Indiana as the Synod of Lincoln Trails. And we are connected to all other churches, presbyteries and synods in the United States through the General Assembly in Louisville. At each level the mission of the church is done on a wider and wider scale. And each governing body assists those it serves in a variety of ways. For example, as our church seeks a new pastor, the presbytery’s Committee on Ministry is helping with that process. Presbytery helps men and women seeking to become Presbyterian ministers navigate that process through the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. Presbytery provides annual training for Elders and Clerks of Session, and grants for local mission projects. The synod sponsored the Interim Pastor training I attended in November last year.

Just as our own church has budgeted expenses, so do presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly. The operating budgets of Great Rivers Presbytery, the Synod of the Lincoln Trails and General Assembly are financed through a “per capita” donation. This year our church will send \$28.00 per member. These funds will be divided proportionately between the three governing bodies, with most of it going to presbytery.

Our per capita payments are part of our operating budget. You can participate in the work of the larger church and, at the same time, ease the pressure on our own budget, by paying your per capita in addition to your annual pledge. Put your donation in a pew envelope or send it directly to the office clearly marked as “per capita.” And thank you for your support of First Presbyterian, Great Rivers Presbytery, the Synod of the Lincoln Trails, and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Tim Doty

## *Announcements & News*

### Financial Update



#### **Our Church Budget Update:**

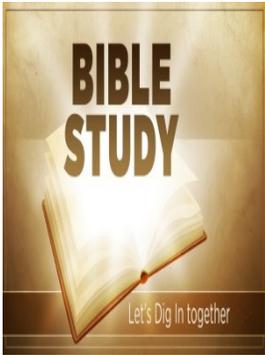
Y-T-D through January 20, 2015

Budget Income \$11,093.00

Budget Expenses \$5,778.44

Net Income: \$5,314.56

### Wednesday Bible Study



Wednesday Bible Study continues at 1:30 p.m. each Wednesday afternoon. Our current topic is the book of Revelation. We are a little over half way through now, and will soon be starting our next topic. That will be a study of the beginning of the monarchy in Israel, from the prophet Samuel to King David (maybe we'll throw in Solomon as well) as told in the books of 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 Kings. Feel free to join the class at any time—no need to wait for a new study to begin. Hope to see you there!

### Annual Meeting

The Session has called the Annual Meeting of the congregation for Sunday, February 8, following worship. Printed Annual Reports will be available Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> for you to read prior to the meeting. And a baked potato lunch will be served following the meeting—a further incentive to stay! Please plan to attend this important meeting.

### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent, the time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Lent lasts 40 days, a reminder of the 40 days Jesus fasted and was tempted following his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. Again this year we will join with our friends from First Congregational Church for the Ash Wednesday service. The service will be here at First Presbyterian on February 18 at 7:00 p.m.

## Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday February 1 is the Super Bowl and the Souper Bowl of Caring. At the end of January people brought food items for the Geneseo Food Pantry and “voted” for their favorite (or least unfavorite) team to win the Super Bowl. On Super Bowl Sunday there will be Souper soup lunch following worship. If you miss the date, don’t worry—you can still participate by bring food items or donations for the Food Pantry at any time.

## Circa 21

Friday, April 10, 2015 will be the day we go to “Circa 21” for lunch and to see the “Church Basement Ladies” last show. This year’s show is “The Last Potluck Supper.” Tickets are \$42.75. There will be a sign up sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary or you can contact Virginia Nelson at 309-944-2249. You can invite a friend to go and men are invited as well. We will car pool from the church. Sign up soon.

## Easter Flowers

The Easter flowers will be ordered in March this year. Starting at the end of February in the bulletins and in the March Grapevine there will be an order form for you to order either Easter Lilies or Tulips. You can start ordering flowers March 8<sup>th</sup> and the deadline for ordering will be March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tulips went fast last year so if that is what you are thinking you will want to order please order early. Thanks!

## Sermon CD’s

Sermon Cd’s will now be available to those who are unable to make it to service compliments of the Deacon’s and Worship & Music. If you know of anyone who would like a Cd of the service please let the church office, a Deacon, or someone on the Worship & Music committee know so a Cd can be provided to them. Thanks!

## *Presbyterian Women*

**PW CTM – Monday, February 2, 2015, 9:00 a.m.**

### Faith Circle & Lamplighters (Just in February)

Date: Wednesday February 18, 2015

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Hostess: Cathy Hadley

Lesson: Barb Grunwald

**Just for February Lamplighters will be meeting with Faith Circle on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Lamplighters will return to meeting on Mondays at 7:00 pm in March.**



## *Musical Notes*

It's February and that means we are in the last month of nasty weather, hopefully.

Easter is early this year, so we are fast approaching the season of Lent. A time to reflect on the good, the bad, and the ugly of our lives. More on that next month. Right now, we are following Jesus as he preaches and heals, and, on February 15, we celebrate the Transfiguration. Jesus, with Peter, James, and John as witnesses, was transformed from human appearance to that of deity and proclaimed, by God, that "this is my Son, with whom I am well pleased". That Sunday, the last before Ash Wednesday, is also the last time we will sing "Alleluias" until Easter Sunday.

"Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones" will be a hymn that Sunday. It is one of my favorites because it not only has the "Alleluias" but also gives us the order of all the angels in their order of importance. This, for a long time, has been a good reference. The hymn was written in 1906 – way before "Google".

For your information, from the bottom of the ladder to the top, in three rings around the throne of God, we have : Angels (those closest to humans), Archangels, and Virtues in the outer ring. Then, Powers, Princedoms, and Dominions in the intermediate ring. Then, in God's "inner circle", we have the Thrones, Cherubim, and Seraphim. All of these have specific powers and duties, for instance:

- The Seraphim sing praises to God , and their main duty is to "regulate the Heavens"
- The Cherubim guard the gates of heaven
- The Thrones' (also known as the "Many Eyed Ones") job is to carry out the decisions of God.
- The Dominions' job is to regulate the duties of the other angels and make sure God's wishes are carried out (talk about middle management).
- Archangels are probably the best known of all angels; they command God's armies in the fight against the "Son's Of Darkness". They also bring important messages to humans.
- The "Angels" are what we most commonly refer to as our "Guardian Angels". They act as intermediaries between God and man.

Well, now you know. I hope this hymn will now become one of your favorites also.

George



## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*



February 2015

- 1 Sheldon Schroeder
- 2 Barb Palmer
- 8 Jamison Weisser
- 9 Callie Happel
- 12 Marilyn McGaughy
- 17 Carrie Kocourek
- 19 Jami Burbridge
- 19 Helen Ellsberry
- 19 Sylvia Hein
- 22 Naida Moburg
- 22 Joe Wright
- 24 Joseph Gragg
- 25 Matthew Carlson
- 26 Holly Brookens
- 27 Alyssa Simpson
- 28 Amanda Esche

**LOVE** is patient  
is kind  
it does not envy  
it does not boast  
it is not proud  
it is not rude  
it is not self-seeking  
it is not easily angered  
keeps no record of wrongs  
does not delight in evil  
rejoices with the truth  
always protects  
always trusts  
always hopes  
always perseveres  
never fails

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

**If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please call the church office.**



# February Worship Schedule

## February 1<sup>st</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Epiphany  
Holy Communion  
9:15 a.m. Sun. school & Confirm  
10:30 a.m. Worship/Souper Bowl of Caring  
11:30 a.m. Souper Soup Lunch  
Sermon: "Authority"  
(Psalms 111; Mark 1:21-25)

## February 15<sup>th</sup>

Transfiguration of the Lord  
9:15 a.m. Sun. school & Confirm  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. After Church Coffee  
Sermon: "People Who See Things"  
(Psalms 50:1-6; Mark 9:2-9)

## February 22<sup>nd</sup>

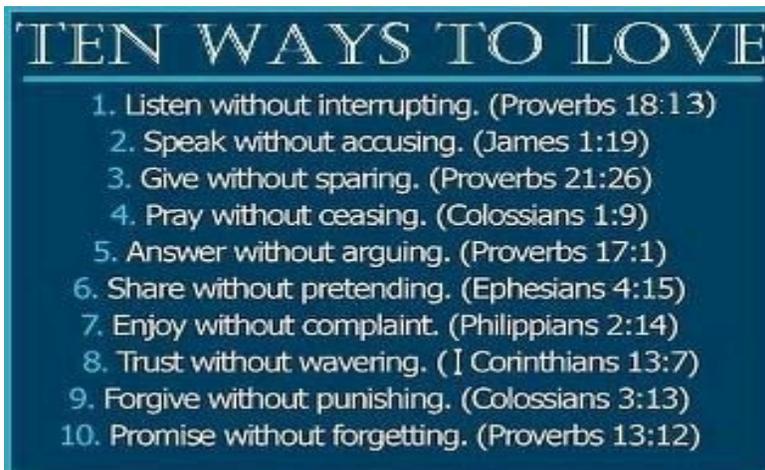
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent  
9:15 a.m. Sun. school & Confirm  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. After Church Coffee  
Sermon:  
(Gen. 9:8-17; Ps. 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15)

## February 8<sup>th</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Epiphany  
Annual Meeting  
9:15 a.m. Sun. school & Confirm  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Baked Potato Bar  
Sermon: "Strength for the Journey"  
(Isa. 40:21-31; Mark 1:35-39)

## February 18<sup>th</sup>

Ash Wednesday  
Combined Church Service  
Host: First Presbyterian Church  
7:00 p.m. Service



Deadline for Grapevine article submission will be February 20<sup>th</sup> for March's Grapevine.

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