



The Bell

July, 2018

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

SO MANY BOOKS, SO LITTLE TIME

Pastors are notorious for buying books and not having enough time to read the ones they buy and would like to read. I plan to take some time during the summer to catch up on my reading, to read for fun and for learning.

I thought I would tell you about the ones that I recently read which I would highly recommend, books that I plan on reading that look like they will be fun to read, books that are devotional books that I will keep by my bedside, and finally ones that I would like to read for knowledge.

First the ones I recommend: They are: *Hijacked* by Mike Slaughter the pastor of Ginnghamsburg United Methodist Tipp City, Ohio. It is about responding to the partisan church divide. I am always shocked how un-Christlike many Christians are when it comes to politics. We need understanding, love, and a whole lot more stability in these matters. This book goes a long way to helping.

The Book of Joy - Happiness in a Changing World by the Dalai Lama and Bishop Desmond Tutu. The Bishop and the Dalai Lama look back on their long lives with a single question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering?

The Return of the Prodigal Son - A Story of Homecoming by Henri Nouwen. Henry, through the eyes of the famous biblical parable of the Prodigal Son teaches, for all who ask, "Where has my struggle led me?" or for those "on the road" who have had the courage to embark on the journey but seek the illumination of the known way and safe passage, this work will inspire and guide each time it is read.

The Gift to Listen – The Courage to Hear by Cari Jackson. Listening is a lost art and, this book interweaves listening techniques with spiritual principles that emphasize the importance of listening.

And last *The Gifts of Imperfection* - by Brene Brown. This book is about the lifelong journey from "What will people think?" To "Am I enough?". Reading *The Gifts of Imperfection* is like having a long, uplifting conversation with a very wise friend who offers compassion, wisdom, and great advice.

The book I plan to read for fun is a four-part series by Jerle Law: *Spirit Fighter, Fire Prophet, Shadow Chaser, and Trade Runner*. It's fiction about a family that is one-quarter angel and all their adventures as they fight fallen angels in another realm and learn to use their faith and gifts. They are thought-provoking about spiritual battles going on around us that we are unaware of.

The books I plan to keep at my bedside to read as a devotion before going to sleep are: *Reaching Out* – (continued on following page)

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The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life by Henri Nouwen. The movements he talks about are reaching out to our innermost self, reaching out to our fellow human beings, and reaching out to God.

Beyond the Mirror by Henri Nouwen. This book is not a book of easy answers as to why accidents happen. Instead, Nouwen's own story reveals God as one who will use these interruptions in life to show us that, being anchored in His love, we are free to escape the complications of this world.

Last I will keep *A Cry for Mercy - Prayers From (the Abby at) Genesee* by Henri Nouwen.

The books that are last on my list and ones I will probably read when I am on study leave are self-explanatory by their titles.

In-Between Church - Navigating Size Transitions in Congregations by Alice Mann; *How Your Church Family Works - Understanding Congregations as Emotional Systems*, by Peter Steinke; *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate - A New Vision For Financial Stewardship* by J. Cliff Christopher; and last *The Church In Emerging Culture, Five Perspectives* by Leonard Sweet, Andy Crouch, Michael Horton, Fredrerica Mathewes-Green, Brian D. McLaren and Erwin McManus.

Yeah, still more books than I will probably read over the summer, but that is my list. I would really like to hear about your favorite books and what you have in mind to read next.

Blessings,
Pastor Karel

STEWARDSHIP BREAKFASTS SCHEDULED

The special Stewardship Breakfast which was held several months ago was so popular, we have decided to make it a semi-regular event on our calendar.

The next special breakfast will be on Sunday, July 22 hosted by Hospitality Team 1, Margi Kohl and Dick Kemp.

Please plan to join us after service for a complete breakfast that day and all we ask is that you contribute what you would pay if you went to a restaurant for your morning meal.

To make the day extra special, Jean Peissig is donating a quilt which will be given to a lucky "breakfaster". It won't be a raffle as such but will be open to all those who have breakfast with us. If you breakfast at the church that day and pay \$10, you can put your name in the running for the quilt 10 times. If you pay \$5, you get five chances to win the quilt. So you get to eat and have a chance a winning the beautiful quilt too.

It is the hope of the Stewardship Committee that these special breakfasts will be held every month. Be sure to watch the Bulletin and the Bell for Stewardship Breakfast Sundays.

SESSION ELECTS ELDERS TO NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Erik Anderson and Lynda Butek have been elected by Session to represent that group on the 2018 Nominating committee. Anderson will be chair that committee which includes Corine Boos, Margi Kohl, Gene Peissig, Jinx Smith, Anne Welke and Pastor Karel.

This year we may be electing up to two new elders depending on if Jeannette Miller and Gary Shorrel choose to remain on Session for their second term, three new Deacons to replace Pat Andress, Bonnie Gullickson and Dick Kemp, possibly one new member of the Endowment Fund Board depending on whether Gwen Bauman chooses to remain for a second term or not and one member of the Financial Review team to replace Esther Frazier.

If you are a member of the church, are interested in any of these positions and feel you might be qualified to serve, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee for further information. They will be happy to explain what each position involves and what would be expected of a new church leader.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS TO RETURN IN SEPTEMBER

As summer progresses, we begin to think about our plans for the Fall including Wednesday night suppers.

Those teams which have been participating will be getting a phone call soon to see if they are willing to answer the call again this year and we are looking for a few new teams to add to the group.

If you are interested in cooking one Wednesday night approximately every two months, please contact Erik Anderson or Margi Kohl to add your name to the list.

FALL DIRECTORIES IN THE WORKS

Church staff is working hard on the new directory which will be published later this summer. It will include names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers of members and friends of FPC as well as information about church leaders, hospitality teams and their schedule, welcome desk and Deacons' schedules.

We want this directory to be as complete and correct as possible and we need your help. Please check the current directory and if you find an error or change in your personal information, please let Tiffany know so she can put the new data in the directory. In particular we want the email addresses of all members. Correct information will help the staff and the Shepherds who use the emails on a regular basis.

In addition, each team needs to have the information they want to appear in the directory to Tiffany by early August. This should include the names of team members, the team purpose and any events the team plans for the coming year.

AGNES' TABLE SCHEDULED FOR JULY 19

Presbyterians will again be serving at Agnes' Table on July 19. If you are interested in helping, please contact Margi Kohl or Holly Gintz for more information.

CHIPPEWA CHURCHES JOIN IN PURE WATER DAYS SERVICE

Every year our church participates along with other Christian churches in Chippewa Falls in the ecumenical service in Irvine Park as part of Pure Water Days.

This year's service will be on Sunday, August 12 at 10 AM at the band shell in the park. Participating in this year's service will be pastors from Trinity United Methodist Church, Zion Methodist Church, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Central Lutheran Church, Christ Episcopal Church and FPC.

There will be a come-forward intinction communion service and the traditional collection. You can designate your offering to go to FPC but all loose money will go to one of the designated missions in the community.

There will be no regular service at FPC that day, so plan to attend the service in the park. There are benches available or you can bring your own chairs to sit on the hill.

In addition to communion servers, we will need at least two ushers who will also take the collection and 50 to 75 bars to serve after the service.

If you are able to bring bars and/or help in other areas, please contact Pastor Karel.

See you in the Park!

ORGAN REPAIR TO BEGIN LATE SUMMER

In last month's Bell, you learned of the continuing problems we are having with our historic organ.

The 18 pipes that are failing are scheduled to be removed late this summer. The repair work, which will be done through our organ tuners, Grandall and Engen, is expected to take four to six weeks during which time we will rely on the grand piano in the Sanctuary instead of the organ.

To date, \$5000 of the total repair costs of \$5780 have been donated.

Our thanks go out to those who have so generously chosen to keep our organ playing.

WE ARE IN THE CITY FOR GOOD

By Gwenn Bauman

On a recent Thursday, a young man walked in as we were packing up food from the Food Pantry that didn't find a home that day. He asked if there was any way he might still be able to get a bag of food.

We invited him to come in and get some food. As we chatted with him, we learned he was diabetic. He'd had his left leg amputated well above the knee and was hobbling around with crutches. He mentioned that he was also out of supplies for his diabetes.

Since he was staying at the Indianhead Motel and had no cooking facilities, he asked for a homeless bag. We helped him sort through a bag of food and remove what he couldn't eat. We offered him an additional oatmeal and some extra soups since he at least had a microwave in his room.

He kept telling us how grateful he was for our help and that this would get him through the weekend.

We checked to see if Jill Cooper from the Open Door Clinic was in the building. She was able to give him the diabetic supplies he needed. He thanked Jill and told her and the food pantry volunteers how grateful he was for all the Open Door Clinic and the food pantry were able to provide.

More often than not, our volunteers are faced with folks in tough spots. Most of the people are like this young man, extremely grateful. If we ever get someone who's upset, it's because no agency they've talked to has funds available to help them. They're desperate. We are able to help fill some basic needs with CareLink, the Open Door Clinic, and our Food Pantry until they can get the help they need.

Even if we can't help everyone, we are making a huge difference for some. We keep in mind the Starfish parable when we feel we aren't doing enough:

One day, an old man was walking along a beach that was littered with thousands of starfish that had been washed ashore by the high tide. As he walked he came upon a young boy who was eagerly throwing the starfish back into the ocean, one by one.

Puzzled, the man looked at the boy and asked what he was doing. Without looking up from his task, the boy simply replied, "I'm saving these starfish, Sir".

The old man chuckled aloud, "Son, there are thousands of starfish and only one of you. What difference can you make?"

The boy picked up a starfish, gently tossed it into the water and turning to the man, said, "I made a difference to that one!"

Let us be more like that boy and help everyone we can. That's why we are in the City for Good.

A-PICKNICKING WE'LL GO

Mark your calendars! Wednesday, August 1 will be the date for this year's church picnic. There will something for everyone to do and eat and activities for the whole family.

The picnic will be held in the main pavilion in Irvine Park. Setup begins at 3:30 and we hope to serve by 5:30. The picnic will last until just before dark.

It is a pot luck so bring a dish to share. The meat will be provided and there will be a free-will donation to cover the cost. Bring your own table service and beverage.

There will be games so think about being competitive - in a friendly sort of way. While this is an FPC event, you are encouraged to bring a friend to enjoy the afternoon.

We will be recruiting volunteers to help set up, grill, everything. Think about how you can help.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

The following people are celebrating birthdays and/or anniversaries in July:

July 5 Brooke Brovold
July 6 Todd and Ellen Teske
July 7 Mason Johnson
July 8 Evelyn Jenson
July 12 Keion Twyman
July 14 Darin Flater
July 17 Pat Popple

July 15 Jim and Deb Bieging and Edith Ament
July 19 Alex Hager and Jeff and Eleanor Owen
July 22 Chris Norseng
July 24 Doug Gullickson
July 25 Rich Koepke
July 26 Bill McDougall and Larry and Linda Annett
July 28 Jan Giedd, Karel Hanhart and Roxie Wolfe
July 31 Chelsea Seckora

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PAY YOUR PER CAPITA

Per Capita is the member assessment used to fund the administrative work of the Presbytery, Synod and church as a whole.

The Presbytery helps the individual churches and our per-capita payments allows them to do this work on our behalf.

The per capita assessment is separate from our regular donation. This year it is \$31 per member and the church must pay this amount whether it collects it from the members or not so keep this in mind when you figure out your budget for the coming months. If you haven't paid your per-capita, it's not too late. Please do it now.

July Schedules

July 1 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 6
Led by Bonnie Gullickson and Pat Andress

Communion Servers – Erik Anderson,
Kevin Litten, Gary Shorrel, Beth Cripe and
Corine Boos

Welcome Desk – Bonnie Gullickson

Flower Provider – Open

July 8 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 7
Led by Mitch and Kathi Mandelert

Welcome Desk – Margi Kohl

Flower Provider – Open

July 15 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 8

Led by Gene Peissig and Beth Cripe

Welcome Desk – Barb Meredith

Flower Provider – Open

July 22 - Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 1
Led by Margi Kohl and Dick Kemp

Stewardship Breakfast

Welcome Desk – Jean Peissig

Flower Provider – Chuck Norseng and
children commemorating Chris's 66th birthday

July 29 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 2
Led by Lynda Butek and Mary Jo Reemtsma

Welcome Desk – Anne Welke

Flower Provider – Open

BRING OUT YOUR SHOES

The Soles for Souls project will be in full swing in September and October. This is an annual project we undertake with the Mission Coalition.

We will be gathering all kinds of shoes – old shoes, new shoes, shoes of all sizes, single shoes, even worn out shoes – for this drive.

The rescheduling of this event means you have plenty of time to sort through your shoes and bring in what you and your family don't wear. Someone else will appreciate your generosity.