

CONNECTIONS

January, 2012

Volume XII, Issue 1

First Presbyterian Church
321 N. 5th Street
Burlington, Iowa 52601

Christingles



The Christmas Story



Glimpses of Grace...by Rev. Deb Kinney

It seems only fitting to begin this new year's *Glimpses of Grace* with an article called *By Grace* that Marcia Bailey brought to Bible study recently. The author is unknown, but the Scripture text that is quoted is Ephesians 2:8-9: 'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, but it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship....'

- *When a person works an 8-hour day and receives a fair day's pay for his/her time, that is a wage.*
- *When a person competes with an opponent and receives a trophy for his/her performance, that is a prize.*
- *When a person receives appropriate recognition for his/her long service or high achievement, that is an award.*
- *But when a person is not capable of earning a wage, can win no prize, and deserves no award—yet receives such a gift anyway—that is a grace.*

This is what we mean when we talk about the grace of God.

Grace is one of those essential aspects of the Christian faith that is often tough to give and even tougher to receive. As the article and Scripture state, we cannot earn God's love and in spite of all our good intentions, we do not deserve God's kindness or forgiveness either. The Second Person of the Trinity did not have to come into the world as an infant, nor did He have to die on our behalf. Yet He did, willingly and joyfully. And as a result, we have been given an abundance of gifts: the gift of forgiveness, the gift of salvation, the gift of living forever with God, the gift of love. That is all grace...amazing grace that saved a wretch like me!

So the question for this new year is how are we responding to this wonderful gift of God? Not long ago Wilma Hemphill had on a cross-country T-shirt from Caleb's school. On the back was a quote from runner Steve Prefontaine: To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift.

God desires our best as we love, serve, follow, obey and give back to Him in gratitude. God also desires we share our gift with others – the idea is that we are blessed to be a blessing.

Eugene Peterson in his *Message* translation of the Ephesians text says it beautifully: *God didn't lose His temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, He embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on His own, with no help from us! ... All we do is trust Him enough to let Him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish!*

Save the Date..from the Mission Committee

Save the Date
For a
Church Local Mission Outing

The Mission Committee is gathering a group of our members young and "young at heart" to spend an hour packaging fortified rice meals through "**Kids Against Hunger**"! We are looking to sign-up 26 willing volunteers. The sign-up list is in Fellowship Hall.

Date: Saturday, January 21
Time: 10:15 AM to 11:15 AM
Location: Messiah Lutheran Church
West Avenue, Burlington

You don't want to miss this great opportunity to enjoy working together for a wonderful mission!

From Your Trustees.....

Statement of Income & Expense November 30, 2011

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Percent of Budget
Income				
Offerings	170,981.00	167,683.06	3,297.94	98.1%
Investment In- come	65,027.00	55,474.71	9,552.29	85.3%
PerCapita	5,000.00	2,210.00	2,790.00	44.2%
Christian Ed In- come	0.00	2,387.61		
Congregational Life Income	0.00	608.49		
Misc Income	0.00	2,000.89		
Mission Income	0.00	1,173.13		
Total Income	241,008.00	231,537.89	9,470.11	96.1%
Expenses				
Personnel	137,266.00	116,168.95	21,097.05	84.6%
Christian Educa- tion	3,000.00	4,616.04	-1,616.04	153.9%
Congregational Life	2,250.00	2,471.08	-221.08	109.8%
Deacons	250.00	178.90	71.10	71.6%
Mission	26,202.00	16,967.05	9,234.95	64.8%
PerCapita	9,758.00	7,625.30	2,132.70	78.1%
Property	48,104.00	41,921.53	6,182.47	87.1%
Finance	9,178.00	8,989.08	188.92	97.9%
Worship	3,000.00	2,666.74	333.26	88.9%
Welcoming Com- mittee	2,000.00	1,962.92	37.08	98.1%
Total Expenses	241,008.00	203,567.59	37,440.41	84.5%
Differential		27,970.30		

Presbyterian Women Celebrate



Awesome Response – No Tags Left on Angel Tree

With love and generosity, our church family came to the aid of needy families in the Burlington community this Christmas season. **The Angel Tree** provided young people from seven families with a warm shirt or top, long pants, shoes or boots and a “wish list” gift. In a very short time frame, tags were picked from the tree, items were purchased, gifts wrapped and returned for distribution to the families. This was the first time the church did not have to purchase gifts for tags not picked off the tree.

The Cozy Tree is overflowing with quality hats, gloves, mittens, sweats, socks and scarves. In January, these items will be taken to a central school location and distributed by the grade school nurse on an “as needed” basis.

Thank you and God bless!

Cathy Brink & Cheryl Lotz
Angel Tree Committee

Bell Ringers



Food Basket Delivery



Your Children will be in Good Hands!...by Sue Genereux

December 21, was my last day at First Presbyterian. I have really enjoyed being a part of the ministry here and working with the children and will miss you all. However, I want to let you know that the Godly Play program will continue with fine leadership.

Three people who attended the Godly Play workshop in November will share the ministry of storyteller: Carrie Blom, Kevin Eibes, and Jill Mehaffy-Nalley. Sue Sattler will continue as doorkeeper, with Barb Garcia and Rex Beetner on an on-call basis when Sue is unable to be here on Sunday mornings. I am confident that they will provide a fun-filled and enriching experience for the children.

Following is the Storytellers Schedule:

For January 2012:

1st Sun: No Godly Play

2nd Sun: Jill Mehaffy-Nalley,

3rd Sun: Kevin Eibes

4th Sun: Carrie Blom

5th Sun: Kevin Eibes

For all other months of the year:

1st Sun: Kevin Eibes

2nd Sun: Carrie Blom

3rd Sun: Kevin Eibes

4th Sun: Jill Mehaffy-Nalley

5th Sun: Carrie Blom or Kevin Eibes



A Reminder for Parent, Grandparents and other Members:

At the November Godly Play workshop, Wanda Stahl, our workshop leader, reminded us that the worship center is a child centered space for the community of children. It is important not to over-populate the room with adults. The children respond best when there are just two adults in the room-- the storyteller and the doorkeeper. Children work best with other children when parents are not in the room and when other adults do not enter while a session is going on. Parents can say their goodbyes at the door and know that the teachers are ready to make the next hour an enjoyable, safe and welcoming time for every child.

I want to thank all the members who have helped make the items that we use to pass on the important stories of our faith to the children. Your support has been invaluable to the nurturing and faith formation of the children here at First Presbyterian.

Come to Church with a Can

"Come to Church with a Can" exceeded our goal for 2011 reaching 1,280 items and counting! A final tally will be provided next month. We are looking forward to continuing this mission with the goal to match or increase the result achieved in 2011. The Neighborhood Community Action Center has expressed many thanks to us throughout the year for the generous contributions made by the members of First Presbyterian Church.





News-worthy Notes...



Please give a huge ‘thank you!’ to Terri Huddleston for her faithful service many years as the 1st Sunday South Door greeter. Terri has decided to retire from these duties, so she can devote herself to coffee hour, Worship Team, other committees and yes, she does have a life outside church!

Please give yet another huge ‘thank you!’ to Rex Beetner for the wonderful web-site which is up and running with current photos, a lot of new venues and a way for asking for prayers: www.1stpresb.org.



Thanks to all who worked on the float for the Christmas Parade. We will be able to use it next year.



Worship Services & More

- Jan. 1st** *Lessons & Songs*; Worship with Communion by intinction begins at 10 a.m.
- Jan. 8th** Jim Elmer will be preaching.
- Jan. 15th** Dr. Sherman Williams will be preaching.
- Jan. 22nd** Ken Velharticky will be preaching.
- Jan. 29th** Annual Congregational Meeting after worship.

Serving You...



USHERS...

- Jan. 1: *Dick Fischer, Adele Coulter, Bruce Morrison, Kel Stensland, Tom White
 Jan. 8: *Curtis Blom, Rex Beetner, Bill Carter, Sandy Russell, Toshiko Velharticky
 Jan. 15: *Mike Gorman, Carl Boley, Ted Francis, Barb Garcia, Linda Tickel
 Jan. 22: *Craig Gilchrist, Kevin Eibes, Jim French, Pat Saldeen, Ron Stewart
 Jan. 29: *Terri Huddleston, Toddy Gorman, Tom Murphy, Bonnie White

GREETERS...

- Jan. 1: Bonnie White, Leona Byars
 Jan. 8: Lou Harter, Jean Miller
 Jan. 15: Dick Fischer, Mark & Deb Scott
 Jan. 22: Marilyn Malcom, Polly Rein
 Jan. 29: Pat Cummings, Don & Marilyn Leight

ELDERS: Arnie Anderson, Marcia Bailey, Claudine Capps, Ted Francis (clerk of session), Jesse McCormick, Bruce Morrison, Cindy Murphy, Marilyn Nuss & Sue Sattler

DEACONS: Barbara Blom, Curtis Blom, Brenda Frederick, Sue Gilchrist, Jo Hamilton, Lou Harter, Don Krekel, Penny Rucker, Carl Siefken, Donna Siefken, Linda Tickel & Ken Velharticky.

TRUSTEES: Carrie Blom, Carl Boley, Tom Murphy (Secretary), Debbie Opiekun (President), Marilyn Leight (Treasurer), Ed Whitmore (Vice President).

COMMITTEE MODERATORS:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Educational Ministries: | Nominating: Bruce Morrison |
| Congregational Life: Claudine Capps | Personnel: Ted Francis |
| Deacons: Ken Velharticky | Maintenance: Arnie Anderson |
| Endowment: Wilma Hemphill | Jesse McCormick |
| Memorials: Marcia Bailey | Mission: Bruce Morrison |
| Welcoming: Sue Sattler | Worship: Marilyn Nuss |

- January 3..... Carl Boley
 Ken Velharticky
 January 4..... Sheri Armstrong
 Jim Hugg
 January 6..... Brock Dengler
 January 8..... Doug Keck
 LaDonna Putnam
 January 15..... JoLynn Clayton
 Jane Snider
 January 16..... Jack Behrens
 Vi Ernst
 Debbie Wehrle
 January 17..... Rex Beetner
 Levizen Eipert
 Sally Jamison
 January 18..... Bob Sattler
 January 19..... David LaFever
 January 20..... Jeanine Anderson
 January 21..... Lauren Briggs
 Vickie Carhoff
 January 25..... Erin Abramsohn
 January 29..... Anita Erickson
 Brenda Frederick
 January 30..... Roger Erickson

Note from the Knitwits... by Brenda Frederick

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was dedicated, to the Glory of God, December 4th!

The prayer shawls and chemo caps are available for the asking. They are a gift for showing care and concern and/or for a joy such as an anniversary or birth. If you would like one of these prayer shawls/chemo caps, please see the church office and/or Pastor Deb.

A beautiful display of these items are in the sanctuary at the North exit/entry.



Church Connections

PW News

January 4, 2012

Location: First Presbyterian Church

Co-Hostesses: Nancy Lazenby
Shirley Webster

Study Leader: Eva Ann Elmer

Mission: Toilet Tissue



Yum Yum Group

The Yum Yums will meet at the Broadway in West Burlington on Thursday, January 19th at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and great conversation. All are welcome. Please call Toddy & Mike Gorman at 208-0842 to make a reservation.

Thank You

Many thanks to the deacons of the church for the nice evening meal that was brought to me by Sue Gilchrist.

I am house-bound at present with a broken ankle.

I am going to Florida to be with my son for a while but hope to be back to church soon.

Merry Christmas and thanks again,

Good News Concerning 2012 Pledge Drive

Thanks to the generosity of members and friends of our church, the 2012 annual pledge drive has been very successful. For 2012, a total of \$166,727 was pledged, compared to \$153,820.00 pledged during 2011. This represents an eight percent increase over last year! As can be deduced from the above, a good many members chose to significantly increase their giving.

While there were pledges that were not renewed in 2012 due to deaths, moving away or people leaving the church, this was offset by the receipt of new pledges. In fact, the value of the new pledges received was nearly two and a half times the value of the pledges that were lost! And, pledges are still trickling in.

Instead of a one-shot Stewardship Sunday, this year there were four Sunday's about stewardship, including a tithing testimony, two original skits, a stewardship sermon and the opportunity for the Session to communicate their dreams to the congregation. All these factors combined to let the membership know, in a caring way, the needs of our church to carry on God's work in our community, region, nationally and internationally.

Thanks to all for responding to the need, and God Bless!

Knitwits Ministry

Meets: Second Wednesday of each month

Where: FPC Parlor

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Prayer shawls are made for those who are ill, in transition, celebrating, or need a show of friendship and love. Chemo caps are made and given to Great River Medical Center, Oncology Department.

Yarn, needles, patterns, and teaching how to make shawls and/or chemo caps are provided.

More Information: Brenda Frederick (319) 752-7969
Marilyn Nuss (309) 924-1159
Church Office (319) 752-6626

House Cleaning

If you are short on time or simply unable to clean, call me and I will make your house gleam.

Teresa Trosen
752-4320 or 850-6789




From the Univ. of Iowa Children's Hospital:

Thank you for your generous donation of toys, books, balls, crayons, note pads and more. These items will be placed in our Treasure Chest for the children to select following their procedure(s). The children will love these items!

Sherry Long, RN, MA, Nurse Manager

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 AM Worship	2 Office Closed	3	4 9:15 AM Presbyterian Women 7:00 PM Choir Practice	5 10:30 AM Gems	6	7 6:00 PM Mariners Planning Meeting
8 9:00 AM Sunday School/Godly Play 10:00 AM Worship	9 6:00 PM Deacons Meeting	10 7:00 PM Mission Committee	11 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Knitwits 6:00 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice	12 10:30 AM Gems	13	14
15 9:00 AM Sunday School/Godly Play 10:00 AM Worship	16	17	18 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice	19 10:30 AM Gems 1:30 PM Hope Haven Birthday Party 6:30 PM Yum Yum Group	20	21
22 9:00 AM Sunday School/Godly Play 10:00 AM Worship	23 4:15 PM Trustees Meeting	24	25 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice	26 10:30 AM Gems	27	28
29 9:00 AM Sunday School/Godly Play 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Annual Congregational Meeting	30	31				

Pastor's Report for November, 2011

Worship	Progressive Hay Ride
3 worship services	C4C Float prep, decorating, dismantling
1 funeral; graveside	Veterans Potluck
Christian Education	Godly Play Training Workshop
Led 8 Bible studies on Wednesday mornings	Confirmation reception
2 Confirmation Classes	Presbytery
Led 1 Spiritual Direction Group session	Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Counseling	Wapello Congregational Meeting
20 Drop-ins/appointments/calls	Ordination service for Tim Dyck
Hospital/home	Education
7 visits/calls	Prep for Bible studies/sermons
8 postcards	1 Supervisory session
Church Meetings	1 Spiritual Direction session
Worship	Other
Deacons	Connections articles
Welcoming	Worship service prep
Session	Meetings with individual Staff (2)
Missions	4 telephone interviews with prospective
Personnel	Directors of Educational Ministries
Trustees	Community
Staff lunch for Dr. Don	1 Spiritual Direction session
Staff meeting	Community Youth Group/Kids Against
Church Activities/Events Attended	Hunger
Knitwits	

Minutes of the Stated Meeting of Session

November 21, 2011

1st Presbyterian Church, Burlington, Iowa

A Stated Meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Burlington, Iowa was held in the church parlor on November 21, 2011. **Rev. Deb Kinney** opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with prayer. A quorum was present.

Present were: Moderator Deb Kinney and Elders Arnie Anderson, Marcia Bailey, Claudine Capps, Ted Francis, Jesse McCormick, Bruce Morrison, Cindy Murphy, Marilyn Nuss, Sue Sattler
Guests: Jack Anderson

A motion to approve the agenda with one addition under item V. New Business was APPROVED by voice vote.

The Moderator introduced confirmand **Jack Anderson** to the session. He shared about himself and was examined by the elders. Following the examination a motion to receive **Jack Anderson** into membership of First Presbyterian Church was APPROVED by voice vote. During worship on Sunday, November 27, 2011 he will share his Statement of Faith, publically profess his faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and be presented to and welcomed by the congregation.

Minutes Approval

Minutes from the Stated Meeting of the Session on October 17, 2011 were APPROVED by voice vote.

Staff Reports

A motion to receive the printed staff reports was APPROVED by voice vote.

Committee Reports

Personnel: The summary of **Rev. Deb Kinney's** Annual Review was shared with the session. The Personnel Committee found the data and comments helpful. The results will be used to assist in setting the pastor's 2012 goals. The session was updated on the progress of the search for a Director of Educational Ministries. The position is now being advertised as full-time at a higher salary. The committee is reviewing applications and interviews will begin soon.

Worship: A new method of distributing the elements during communion was presented for approval. Following discussion a motion to retain the current method of distributing the communion elements was APPROVED by voice vote.

A motion to receive the reports from the Session Committees was APPROVED by voice vote.

Report of Maintenance

A sample of the carpet selected for the parlor and chapel was shown. The work day scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd has been cancelled.

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees submitted a proposal of policies for drivers when using a rented or owned vehicle on a Church-sponsored activity. After discussing the policies one change was made to item #5. "Drivers must have good driving habits. They must not have more than one at-fault accident or and one minor traffic violation within the last three years." The word "and" replaces the word "or". The following guidelines for selecting Church drivers were APPROVED by voice vote:

First Presbyterian Church
Burlington, Iowa
Driving Policies

Effective: November 21, 2011

The safety of the occupants of our rented/owned vehicles is our primary concern in establishing guidelines for us to use in selecting drivers for Church-sponsored activities. Experienced, safety-conscious drivers are the key to safe vehicle operation and the prevention of accidents. We want to select individuals based on maturity, attitude and safe driving skills. The following are guidelines when selecting drivers:

Driver must be a minimum of 25 years of age.

Vehicles must be properly equipped if a driver has a license restriction.

Drivers having violations such as careless driving, reckless driving, or driving under the influence shall not be allowed to operate vehicles on our behalf.

Drivers must be properly licensed for the size and type of vehicle being driven. A commercial driver's license

is required in certain circumstances.

Drivers must have good driving habits. They must not have more than one at-fault accident and one minor traffic violation within the last three years.

Prospective drivers must submit a current driving record, obtained at driver's cost, before granting permission to drive a rented/owned Church vehicle.

Prospective drivers must fill out Driver Information Spreadsheet. Administrative Assistant shall keep this information in a secure location.

Before driving a Church owned/rented vehicle the Driver Information Spreadsheet shall have the written approval of Pastor, President of Trustees, or Clerk of Session.

The Board of Trustees minutes from October 24, 2011 were revised to show that Marilyn Nuss was not in attendance, but Leona Byars was present.

Report of the Clerk

- The Burlington Master Gardeners request to use Fellowship Hall for their monthly meetings from January through April 2012 on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:00-8:30 p.m. The request was APPROVED by voice vote.
- A request to baptize **Addilyn Jean Brandenburg**, daughter of **Brittanie** and **Ron Brandenburg** on Sunday, December 11, 2011 was APPROVED by voice vote.
- A request to baptize **Noah Anthony Armstrong**, son of **Amanda Edlemon** and **Austen Armstrong** on Sunday, December 11, 2011 was APPROVED by voice vote.
- A request to change the baptism of **Ava Sue Kinney**, daughter of **Whitney** and **Daniel Kinney** from Sunday, December 11, 2011 to Sunday, December 25, 2011 was APPROVED by voice vote.
- A request from **Linda Parks** to have her membership status changed from inactive to active was APPROVED by voice vote. The Clerk received a letter from New Hope Community Church informing us that **Colleen Wittkamp** is now a member. She has been removed from our membership roll.

A motion to receive the reports from the Session Committees, Deacons, Trustees, Maintenance and Clerk was APPROVED by voice vote.

Old Business

No Old Business at this time.

New Business

A motion to elect **Pat Whitmore** as the Non-serving Elder for the 2012 Nominating Committee was APPROVED by voice vote. The session discussed options for the December and January meetings. A motion was made to keep the December meeting on the 19th with no meeting in January. The motion was APPROVED by voice vote.

Committee moderators will receive information next week regarding submitting reports for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. Moderators were asked to please note the due date.

A motion to hold the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following worship on Sunday, January 29, 2012 in Fellowship Hall for the purposes of presenting the budget, voting on the Pastor's Terms of Call, and forming a Nominating Committee was APPROVED by voice vote.

Marcia Bailey inquired if there is money available to aid the Homeless Shelter which is seeking financial help due to a loss of grants used to meet their monetary needs. **Bruce Morrison**, moderator of the Mission Committee, offered to have the committee review and discuss it.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was APPROVED by voice vote.

Rev. Deb Kinney closed the meeting with prayer at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Francis, Clerk of Session

Rev. Deb Kinney, Moderator