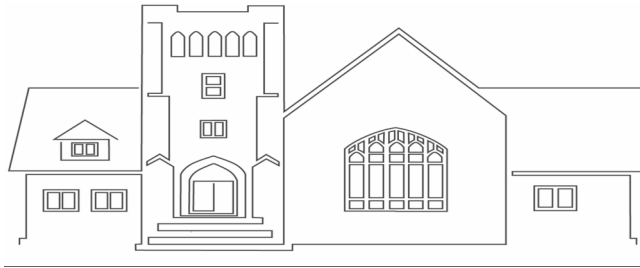


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790**

THE MESSENGER



NOVEMBER, 2011

IT'S OURS TO DO . . . WITH HIS HELP

We've been through it before. We've had time to think about it happening. We've had several people tell us how it's going to go – as best they can at this point. And now it's up to us to make good things happen – to honor God's love for us – to serve him wisely in this time and place.

George said we need to renew our faith and our commitment to God, church, and mission. We must be diligent and patient for the events to unfold.

Phil Barrett assured us that we will not get what we want when we want it, but God will provide the right person (or persons), at the right time – God's direction in God's time. Phil also assured us that to be patient and trust in our God (unlike the Israelites did with Moses) would, over time, provide to us the Gift of the Wilderness some think we are enduring now.

Bret assured and challenged: It's our responsibility to reach out. It's our responsibility to turn it up a notch – or two. It's our church, our heritage and our gift to this community to be welcoming and present in the daily life of the community.

Today we have all of our programs in place and functioning at a high level. The Session is functioning as normal. The Christian Nurture programs are in full swing and the Church Life, Worship and Music, and Membership committees are very busy with plans for upcoming events. We have support of the Presbytery and have started the process of securing Interim leadership for our church family.

What's needed now is for each of us think in terms of "What is my part in all of this going to be?" Can I help Kathy with youth programs? Is there a need to support the work in the kitchen? Can I help Roger and the Buildings & Ground committee in their work? Does Dan need help with the Church Life committee activities? Is my 2011 pledge up to date? Is my 2012 pledge card turned in? Maybe I can help in the office on Tuesdays? Is God nudging me serve as an elder or deacon for the next term of office? Maybe I should sign up to be a Coffee Time Host.

Whatever you can do – it's needed. Think in terms of a "little big church." Sure we have lots of people compared to some, but we also have lots to do and need everyone to be part of our growth and transition – to feel part of something very special. We are family after all and want to have everyone feel that way. So please volunteer your time and talents to your church, this congregation and to God!

In His name:
Dave Boyd and George Wilkening

Worship and Music

Ann Cutts, Chair

Much of the focused of our committee work is on maintaining a regular worship service while we are in transition. Kim Schnell will help with bulletin prep and proofreading. Linda Kirchhoff will be responsible for children's time on the 2nd and 4th Sunday and Kathy Ventling. will be responsible for covering the 1st and 3rd Sunday. Any month that has five Sundays will be taken care of as it comes along. George Wilkening has agreed to lead announcements, joys and concerns.

People filling the pulpit have been or will be:

- October 9th- George Wilkening
- October 16th – Rev. Phil Barrett
- October 23rd- Bret Doerring
- October 30th- Reformation Sunday service
- November 6th- Sara Hopkins
- November 13th- Terry Rickers
- November 20th- Merle Smith
- Nov 27th- Linda Curtis-Stolper
- Dec 4th- Robert De Young
- Dec 11th- Anna Hilpipre

If you missed hearing any of these, please go to our website (www.newton1stpresbyterian.org) and listen to them. They have been outstanding and are a good example of how our church family is pulling together during this transition period.

The worship and music committee is starting to plan for this year's Advent booklet. Co-editors will be Steve Hopkins and Jane Repp. The theme will be "Now is the Time" and stories should be submitted to Steve, Jane or the office by November 6th. Please consider taking a few minutes to share your thoughts on this theme.

Ann Johnson, pastor of Monroe Presbyterian Church, has agreed to lead worship at Park Centre and Newton Village as long as needed. She will keep the same schedule as we have had in the past.



Stewardship Campaign

Our theme this year is *"Enough—Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity"*. As we stated on the pledge cards, we pray you may find the level of giving that is right for you as you progress in your journey of faith and commitment. Your pledges and contributions are a critical party of how we can make a difference in our church, our community and our world.

A few years ago we changed our stewardship and budget procedure. We now ask for your pledge commitments and base our budget on those figures. All committees within the church provide our committee their recommendations for budgeted items, and it is then our responsibility to determine if their recommendations can be met.

To date we have only received back 55% of our pledge cards. At the next Budget and Finance committee meeting, held in mid-November, the committee will need to put together a budget. This cannot be done correctly if we do not have all the pledges in, so we know the number we are working with.

Remember, God honors your faithfulness and your acceptance at First Presbyterian church is not based upon your capacity to give.

Gary Haynes and Bill Shields

From the Deacons

The Deacons continue to make monthly visits to shut-ins and others.

Dave Stolper represents the Deacons on the Nominating Committee.

The Deacons receive no money from the church budget. The funds we expend are loose offerings given to us on Communion Sundays. **We have designated that November 6th's offering be given to the Food Pantry to help with Thanksgiving for those in need in our community.** Thank you in advance for helping us to help others.

Linda Kirchhoff, Moderator



Ray Lithicum. Ray died on October 4, 2011 at the Monarch Wing of Skiff. Funeral services were held on Friday, October 7 at Wallace Family Funeral Home

with Rev. Marvin Potter presiding. Our sympathy goes out to Jean, their daughter, Kay and the extended family. Ray will be greatly missed.

Billie Warner, sister of Chris Norvell, who died unexpectedly on October 31. The body is being cremated and gravesite services will be held at a later date in Baxter.

Be Praying For ...

*Mickey Van Baale who is recuperating from knee replacement surgery. She had surgery on October 18, but remained in the hospital until the October 29 due to the development of a blood clot.

*The couple I have referred to that were in church two weeks ago and then sent a prayer request for this past Sunday are: Matthew Bogue and Joanie Penfold have visited our church and have a prayer request. Joanie has become blind from her diabetes and has an unhealed wound on a leg. They were going to the Wound Center in Des Moines for treatment.

*The many people of El Salvador which was hit by an E-12 storm. There are many washed out crops and roads. The standing water will mean a large mosquito population.



Stacey Jackson and Nicholas Kuiper were wed on October 1 at the Scottish Rite in Des Moines. Rev. Tiare Mathison presided over the service.

Stacey is the school nurse at Berg and Nick works at Surgical Associates in Grinnell. The couple will be making their home in Grinnell.

Stacey is the daughter of Barb Jackson and granddaughter of Pete and Pat Koppin.

Nomination Committee

George Wilkening, Chair

At our September 20 Session meeting, we voted to decrease the number of Elders from 15 to 12. So, we will be searching for 4 Ruling Elders and 4 Deacons.

Please be in conversation with God and see if he is calling you to fulfill one of these positions. Ruling Elders and Deacons are ordained for life. The term on each board is currently 3 years.

The definition of a Ruling Elder in the Book of Order is: *“Ruling elders, together with teaching elders, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships.”*

Deacons are defined as: *“The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress.”*

Our work (search) has begun. We are still needing 4 people who are willing to serve, 2 as Elders and 2 as Deacons. Is God calling you to fill one of these positions? Can we count on you?

As we mentioned last month, we are also hoping people will step up to serve on one of the committees. All the committees need members to help out and for our church to continue with the programs we have in place.

Do not hesitate to let myself or Kathy Ventling know if you have a desire to serve as an Elder or Deacon, at any time.



Mission Committee

Stan Sturtz, Chairperson

Items discussed and acted upon at our October committee meeting were:

- Declare the 4th Sunday of every month as Food Pantry Sunday. The end of the month is when the Salvation Army runs low on canned goods because of the increased demand.
- 2012 delegation to El Salvador trip was set for March 16 -23. This coincides with Newton school's spring break. The hope is that some young people will be able to make the trip.
- FPC Rural Harvest Offering totaled \$427.
- The Christmas party at the correctional facility is scheduled for Sunday, December 4th.
- FPC's date for bell ringing for the Salvation Army is Saturday, December 3rd.
- With Tiare gone the committee needs another contact for the Kids Against Hunger efforts. After the meeting it was determined that the next packaging event is scheduled for November 5th. A note from Ron Helms to Tiare was left in the Mission Committee mailbox.

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

In September of 2010 an interesting article appeared in the Des Moines Register featuring a survey funded by the United Methodist Church in the United States to attempt to find out what their growing churches were doing that the others were not. The cost of the survey was \$200,000. As with many mainline churches their denomination had seen declining membership for several decades. In the thriving churches they found four key factors of vitality that stood out as "crystal clear findings that are actionable".

Small groups and programs, such as Bible study and activities geared toward youth.

An active lay leadership.

Inspiration pastors who have served lengthy tenures at churches.

A mix of traditional and contemporary worship services.

Food for thought!!

The Membership Committee encourages you to use the suggestion box located just outside the office. It helps us to hear your ideas!

Gary Parsons and Cathy Rickers

Budget and Finance Corner

Paula Moore, Chairperson

Pledges are still running behind budget, with the year-to-date total being \$17,744. To help offset this, expenses have been \$420.10 below budget amount, so our total shortfall is \$15,855.97. If you haven't kept your pledges up-to-date, we ask that you take care of this. If a situation has occurred in your life that has changed your ability to fulfill your pledge, please contact a member of our committee.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering of \$1557 was remitted to Presbytery. The collection for Muñoces beans in the amount of \$1557 was sent to Muñoces.

We will begin work on establishing our church budget at our November 7 meeting. To effectively do this, we need 2010 pledges to be current and we need your 2011 pledge cards turned in.

Buildings and Grounds

Roger Harmelink, Chair

A Fall yard clean-up is being planned and we are looking for volunteers. We will also be doing some cleaning and organizing of the rooms and various closets within the church. Watch the Church Happenings and bulletins for further updates and a date. Once published, please let Jenny in the church office know if you would be able to help.

We're pleased to report that the sound system has been repaired and now has some new capabilities.

Also, the blown air conditioner has been replaced.



Committee

If you would like to order a Poinsettia to decorate our church, they are available for \$8.50 each. Please call the church office to order yours by Wednesday each week until December 21.

Poinsettias can be ordered in memory of loved ones or to honor them. Please provide this information to Jenny when you place your order.

You may choose to take yours home. Those not taken will be delivered to our shut-in members by the Deacons.



Replenishment of Supplies

Everyone needs to help in keeping track of supplies and the need for the replenishment of them. Tiare somewhat took care of that before, so a notebook has been set-up in the kitchen by Bob Vander Veer's radio. If you see we are running low on coffee, lemonade mix, napkins, sugar, and any other items used in the kitchen, please write it in the notebook. We would appreciate it if you would include the date of your entry and your name.

Bob will check over the notebook and compare what is needed to excess supplies he may have stored. Anything needed, he will then purchase and cross the items off the listing in the notebook.

Thanks for your help!

Information on Annual Dinners

Progressive Dinner

The 2011 First Presbyterian Progressive Dinner was held on October 30th, with a fine autumn afternoon. The appetizer course began at Linda & Dick Means' home. Salads and breads were served at Ritters, Ericksons, Taylors, Curtis-Stolpers, and Grimms. The main courses were served at Andersons, Parsons, Cutts, McKees, and Mielkes. The foods included taco wraps, meatballs, artichoke dip, apple-yogurt salad, Waldorf salad, romaine with vinaigrette and dried fruit, toasty bread, sauerbrauten, chicken enchiladas, saucy chicken breasts, glazed carrots, scalloped potatoes, and many others. Dessert was held at Janie Moles' home, with a chocolate fondue, frost-on-the-pumpkin pie, almond bars, frosted brownies, pumpkin bread, and carrot cake providing the tasty finale to the evening. There were 41 participants in this year's event, and I think it's safe to say no one left hungry!

Diane Moles

Thanksgiving Dinner

Reservations have been made with the caterer for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. This year we will hold the dinner following worship on November 20. Watch Church Happenings, and the bulletin for more details.

Your Church Life Committee:
Dan Ritter, Chair; Nancy Mott, and Diane Moles



Highlights from Session

By Dave Boyd, Clerk of Session

It would seem The Clerk got a little carried away with the abbreviations in a recent letter/email and used the term *nFOG* - something the Session and many PC(USA) publications have been using for some time. Unfortunately, it's use is not common to everyone.

nFOG stands for *New Form Of Government*, and refers a significant overhaul of the polity section of the Presbyterian Book of Order that was passed by the General Assembly and has been ratified by the appropriate number of Presbyteries around the country. For those with internet access, The Book of Order can be found on the PC(USA) website in a searchable format. For others, copies of the Book of Order are available at the church.

I do apologize for the confusion this caused and will be happy to discuss at any time.

Dave Boyd

- John Reynolds from Congregational Care Committee of Des Moines Presbytery attended as our Moderator
- Ann Johnson from Monroe Presbyterian will maintain our schedule of having worship at Newton Village and Park Center each month
- Discussed needs, timing, names, etc. for an Interim Pastor and set the process in motion.
- Progressive Dinner & Thanksgiving Feast plans are in place
- Recognized Worship & Music Committee's work for having Pulpit Supply in place through November
- Gary reported on joint meeting of the Committee Chairs to improve coordination, minimize over-lap
- Received positive reports on Nominating and Stewardship work
- Christmas Program will be 12/18 with Helyn Wohlwend directing
- Established a written policy for Funerals supported by our church
- WOW is underway and moves to 1PC for dinner the next 3 weeks

SPECIAL NOTE: Volunteers are needed to supplement the folks who are working with our Youth Program. Any and all help would be appreciated. Contact Kathy Ventling

First Presbyterian Church
220 N 2nd Ave E
641-792-2790

Email: new1pres@iowatelecom.net
(this email goes to Jenny Verwers, Office Mgr)

Website: www.newton1stpresbyterian.org

Church Hours: M, W, Thurs: 8am to 4pm

Custodian Hours: M-Thurs: 8am to 11am

The church and church office are closed on Fridays.
Volunteers will be answering the phone on Tuesdays

For emergencies, call Mickey Van Baale at 641-521-0549 or Dave Boyd at 641-831-0878



Birthday to....

- | | | | |
|---|--|----|---|
| 2 | Jane Birkenholz
Steve McKee
Dan Ritter | 8 | Maxine Swanger |
| 3 | Bret Doerring
Evelyn Anderson | 10 | Dave Boyd |
| 6 | Larry DeCook
Barbara Zacheis | 11 | Kathy Ventling |
| 7 | Jack Nicholson
Macy Jontz | 13 | Barb Taylor
Carol Goodwin
Michael LaRue |
| | | 14 | Spencer Elbert |
| | | 15 | Tim Leonard |
| | | 17 | Kathleen Skokan
Steve Hopkins |
| | | 19 | Bridget Swank |
| | | 23 | Mickey Van Baale |
| | | 24 | Jeanne Bridenstine
Tom Farver
Greg Carson |
| | | 27 | Mallory Sturtz
Connie Martin |
| | | 28 | Leland Smith
Spencer Curry |
| | | 29 | JoAnn Munger
Rob Skokan |

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- | | | | | | |
|----|-----------|-----------------------|----|------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 5:00 p.m. | Personnel | 12 | 9:00 a.m. | Spanish III |
| 2 | 9:30 a.m. | Women's Bible Study | 13 | 8:30 a.m. | Church Life |
| | 5:00 p.m. | WOW | 14 | 1:30 p.m. | Newton Village Worship |
| | | Prayer Shawl Ministry | | 6:00 p.m. | Worship & Music |
| | 6:15 p.m. | Spanish I & III | 15 | 5:45 p.m. | Session Meal |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Choir | | 7:00 p.m. | Session |
| 3 | 9:00 a.m. | Men's Group | 16 | 9:30 a.m. | Women's Bible Study |
| | 1:30 p.m. | Park Centre Worship | | 5:30 p.m. | Spanish I |
| 4 | 6:30 a.m. | Men's Group | | 6:15 p.m. | Spanish III |
| 5 | 9:00 a.m. | Spanish III | | 7:00 p.m. | Choir |
| 6 | 8:30 a.m. | Deacons | 17 | 9:00 a.m. | Men's Group |
| 7 | 4:00 p.m. | Building & Grounds | 18 | 6:30 a.m. | Men's Group |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Christian Nurture | 19 | 9:00 a.m. | Spanish III |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Budget & Finance | 20 | 12:00 p.m. | Thanksgiving Dinner |
| 8 | 5:00 p.m. | Missions | 23 | 9:30 a.m. | Women's Bible Study |
| 9 | 9:30 a.m. | Women's Bible Study | | 5:30 p.m. | Spanish I |
| | 5:00 p.m. | WOW | | 6:15 p.m. | Spanish III |
| | | Prayer Shawl Ministry | | 7:00 p.m. | Choir |
| | 6:15 p.m. | Spanish I & III | 26 | 9:00 a.m. | Spanish III |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Choir | 30 | 9:30 a.m. | Women's Bible Study |
| 10 | 4:30 p.m. | Foundation | | 5:30 p.m. | Spanish I |
| | | | | 6:15 p.m. | Spanish III |
| | | | | 7:00 p.m. | Choir |

Sunday Worship Hours

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship



First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 7
220 N 2nd Ave E
Newton, Iowa 50208

641-792-2790

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Lectionary —

November, 2011

November 6 (32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Josh. 24:1-3a, 14-25; *Ps. 78:1-7*
1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13

November 13 (33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Judges 4:1-7; *Ps. 123*; 1 Thess. 5:1-11
Matt. 25:14-30

November 20 (Christ the King/Reign of Christ)

Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24; *Ps. 100*
Eph. 1:15-23; Matt. 25:31-46

November 27 (1st Sunday of Advent)

Isa. 64:1-9; *Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19*; 1 Cor. 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

December, 2011

December 4 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

Isa. 40:1-11; *Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13*; 2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 11 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11; *Ps. 126 or Luke 1:46b-55*
1 Thess. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 18 (4th Sunday of Advent)

2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16; *Luke 1:46b-55 or*
Ps. 89:1-4 19-26; Rom. 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

December 25 (Christmas Day)

Isa. 52:7-10; *Ps. 98*; Heb. 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14